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CEREMONIES, ETC.

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.

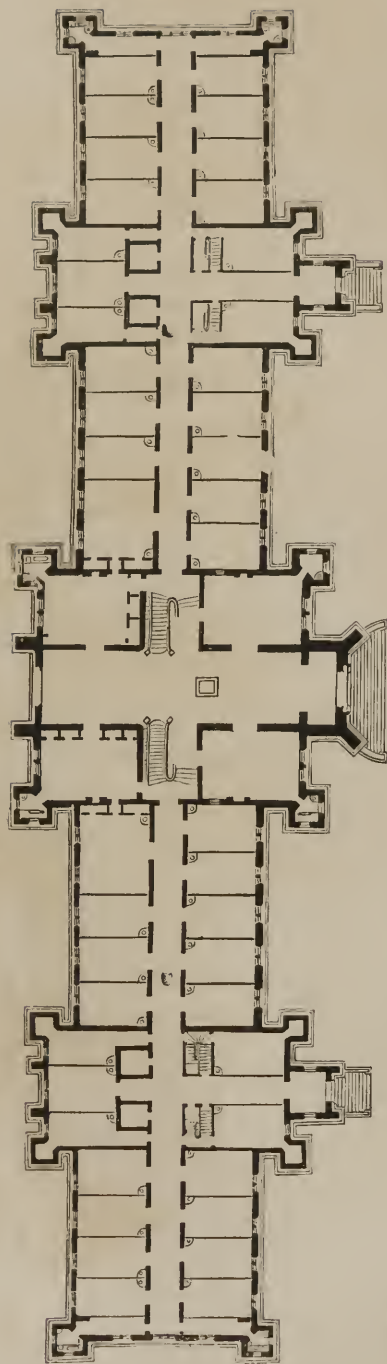


Drawn and Engraved by LOSSING & BARRITT, N. Y.

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

BINGHAMTON, BROOME COUNTY

ISAAC C. PERRY, Architect



Drawn and Engraved by LOSSING & BARRETT, N. Y.

FIRST STORY FLOOR PLAN.

Length of Front, 865 feet.

Width of Transept, 72 feet.

Width of Wings, 51 feet.

ISAAC G. PERRY, Architect.

CEREMONIES, ETC.

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.



NEW YORK:

WYNROOP, HALLENBECK, & THOMAS, PRINTERS, 113 FULTON STREET,

1859.

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ORDER OF CEREMONIES

ON LAYING THE CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW YORK STATE
INEBRIATE ASYLUM,

AT BINGHAMTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1858.

1. Prayer, by Rev. Dr. BEACH, of Binghamton.
2. Ceremonies of Laying the Corner Stone, under the direction of M. W. JOHN L. LEWIS, Jr., Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.
3. Address of JOHN L. LEWIS, Jr.
4. Music, by the Band.
5. Address by the President of the Corporation, Hon. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, of New York.
6. Address, on the objects and necessity of the Asylum, by JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D., LL. D., of New York.
7. Music.
8. Address, by Rev. HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D., of New York.
9. Remarks of Hon. DANIEL S. DICKINSON.
10. Remarks of Hon. EDWARD EVERETT.
11. Poem, by ALFRED B. STREET, Esq., of Albany, N. Y.
12. Benediction, by Rev. N. A PRINCE, of New Jersey.

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NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

LOCATION AT BINGHAMTON.

BINGHAMTON is a delightful town, with some ten thousand inhabitants, and is charmingly situated at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers, two hundred and fifteen miles from New York. It was settled in 1787, by Mr. William Bingham, of Philadelphia, who donated the land for its public buildings, and from whom it derives its name. It is handsomely laid out, with fine avenues, and contains, besides the county buildings, about ten churches, three newspaper offices, a number of hotels, several seminaries, three banks, about fifty storés, warehouses, and manufactories. It is the terminus of the Syracuse, Binghamton, and New York Railroad, and of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, which here unite with the New York and Erie. The Chenango Canal also connects it with Utica.

THE SITE.

The site selected for the Inebriate Asylum is a delightful one, comprising two hundred and fifty-two acres, and one hundred and seventeen rods of land, presented by the citizens of Binghamton, for the purpose to which it is devoted. About two miles eastward from the village is the spot where the building is to stand, being on the summit of a gently sloping eminence ; it is easy of access, and commands a view of the Susquehanna, and Chenango valleys, and of the rivers for eight and nine miles each way, while to the northwest is seen every part of the village. The grounds surrounding the edifice will be laid out in walks and lawns, and the remainder of the land devoted to farming purposes for the use of the institution.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

The design of the building combines prominence, with neatness and beauty. The structure is to be three hundred and sixty-five feet in length, three stories high, of the castellated Gothic style, with massive towers, turrets, and buttresses, embattled at the top. The transept is sixty-two feet wide, by seventy-two feet deep, exclusive of towers, and a portion of the front wall, which makes a large vestibule of the first story. The wings are fifty-one feet deep, and one hundred and forty-seven feet on each façade, exclusive of the projection of the towers, which are four feet six inches, making the extreme length three hundred and sixty-five feet. The centre portion of the wings projects seven feet on each façade, giving ample room on one side of the corridor for stairs each way, without diminishing the depth of the rooms, or the width of the corridor. The projecting portion of the wings have gables and turrets at the angles, six feet square at the bottom, are chamfered at the second stage, and carried up octagonal at the top. The basement is embellished with heavy base—the stories above are separated by heavy molded string-courses. The first story of the transept is divided transversely by a hall, fourteen feet wide, running from front to rear entrances, and longitudinally, by another hall, of the same width, in the first and second stories, communicating at each end, with the corridors of the wings. The hall in the third story is also fourteen feet wide. The principal staircases are at the east end of the longitudinal halls, and lead to the top of the building. The second story of the transept contains a parlor on each of the two sides of the longitudinal hall, twenty-two by twenty-eight feet. The transverse hall, which is fourteen by twenty-eight feet, can be shut off from the longitudinal hall by sliding doors, and used as a parlor, and the three rooms connected by sliding doors. The third story of the transept contains a chapel thirty by sixty-nine feet, and four rooms on each side of it, with a wardrobe to each. The basement and transept contain a kitchen, servants' dining-room, butler's room, pantry, and store and medicine rooms. The first story has four rooms, twenty-two by twenty-eight feet, besides the rooms in the towers and vesti-

bule, an office, reception-room, physician's room, and dining-room. The rooms in the towers are eight feet square. Corridors, nine feet wide, run the entire length of the wings, and are lighted at each end by a large triple window, by a skylight next the transept, and by sash-doors in the centre. The wings are divided into separate wards, there being twenty-two rooms in each ward; two rooms thirteen feet six inches, by eighteen feet, are in the centre of each wing; the dining-room is eighteen by twenty-three feet. The remainder of the rooms in the wings are twelve by eighteen feet. The towers in the wings are seven feet square inside, and fitted up with bath-tubs, etc. The height of ceilings in the transept are: basement, nine feet; first story, fourteen feet six inches; second story, fifteen feet six inches; chapel, twenty-six feet; and the rooms each side of it, ten feet. The height of ceilings in the wings are: basement, nine feet; first story, twelve feet eight inches; second story, twelve feet four inches; and third story, twelve feet. All the windows above the basement are embellished with heavy stone moldings. All the parapets are to be finished with projecting stone cornices, and battlements. The second and third story windows in the transept, and in the towers attached thereto, have pointed windows. The windows of the chapel, and the centre-window in the west elevation of the second story, will be of stained glass. The dressings to the doors and windows, and the basement story, battlements, wreathings, etc., are to be of Syracuse lime-stone. The material to be employed above the basement is brick. It will require about two years to complete the structure, the cost of which will be about \$100,000.

ARTICLES DEPOSITED IN THE CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM,

SEPTEMBER 24, 1858.

1. A copy of the Sacred Scriptures. Presented by Rev. Peter Lockwood, of Binghamton.
2. The Act of Incorporation of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.
3. The Constitution and By-Laws of the same.
4. The date of its commencement.
5. The names of all the Trustees, and Officers of the Board, from its commencement to Sept. 24th, 1858.
6. A copy of the First Public Addresses delivered on behalf of the Inebriate Asylum, by Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D., and Rev. Roswell D. Hitchcock, D. D., at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, November 7th, 1855.
7. Copy of an appeal of the first Board of Trustees to the public, on behalf of the Institution, November, 1855.
8. Copy of the Address of Dr. Turner, to the Board of Trustees, November 7, 1855.
9. Copy of the letter of Dr. Turner to Hon. John A. King, Governor of the State of New York, on the subject of Appropriation, dated December 22d, 1857.
10. The names of all the subscribers to the fund of the Institution.
11. The names of the citizens of Binghamton who subscribed for the purchase of the two hundred and fifty-two acres of land presented to the Corporation of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, as a site for the Institution, with a list of the amount subscribed by each.
12. The name of the Architect.
13. The name of the Superintendent.
14. The names of the Contractors for the basement mason-work.
15. Name of the Contractor for the cut-stone for basement.
16. The names of the Grand Officers of the Masonic Fraternity who officiated in laying the corner-stone.

17. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, of the State of New York.

18. By-Laws of the Binghamton Lodges.

19. By-Laws of Malta Commandery, No. 21.

20. List of the members of Otseningo Lodge, No. 435.

21. List of the members of Calumet Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 221.

22. A copy of the Circular published for the occasion.

23. A copy of the Charter of the village of Binghamton.

24. Transactions of the State Medical Society for 1857, presented by Drs. Orton & Brooks, of Binghamton.

25. Copy of a History of the Medical Profession of Broome County, from 1790 to 1858. Presented by Dr. John G. Orton, of Binghamton.

26. A copy of Medical and Surgical Statistics for 1857. Presented also by Dr. John G. Orton.

27. Copy of an Address delivered by George Burr, M. D., of Binghamton, at the Geneva Medical College, October 4, 1855.

28. The American Medical Gazette, published in New York, June, 1858. Presented by its editor, David M. Reese, M. D., LL. D., of New York.

29. The Scalpel, for July, 1858. Presented by its editor, Edward H. Dixon, M. D., of New York.

30. Hall's Journal of Health, for September, 1858. Presented by its editor, Wm. W. Hall, M. D., of New York.

31. A Catalogue of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 1857.

32. A Catalogue of the University Medical College, New York, 1857.

33. A Catalogue of the New York Medical College, New York, 1857.

34. A Catalogue of the Albany Medical College, Albany, N. Y., 1857.

35. Copy of the Buffalo Medical Journal, for 1858.

36. A list of all the Insane Hospitals in North America, 1858, with the names of their Medical Superintendents.

37. Copy of the American Journal of Insanity, for July, 1856,

published by the Medical Officers of the State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, New York.

38. Report, for 1857, of the Medical Superintendent of the New York State Idiot Asylum, Syracuse, N. Y.

39. History of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, with a Biographical sketch of its President, Harvey P. Peet, M. D., LL. D., 1857.

40. Twenty-first Annual Report, 1857, of the Managers of the New York Institution for the Blind.

41. A copy of each of the Newspapers printed in Binghamton, New York.

42. A copy of the New York Daily Times of August 7th, 1858, containing a full account of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable enterprise, from its commencement to its completion, presented by Evans & Tozer, Binghamton, N. Y.

43. A copy of each of the following weekly papers, printed in New York, September 16th, 1858, to wit :

New York Observer ; New York Evangelist ; Independent ; Christian Intelligencer ; Christian Inquirer ; Church Journal ; Protestant Churchman.

44. Copies of the morning papers of Thursday, Sept. 23d, 1858, to wit :

New York Journal of Commerce ; N. Y. Express ; N. Y. Courier & Enquirer ; N. Y. Herald ; N. Y. Tribune ; N. Y. Daily Times ; N. Y. Daily News ; N. Y. Daily Sun.

45. Copies of the following evening papers for Thursday, Sept. 23d, 1858.

New York Evening Post ; N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

46. Brooklyn Daily Eagle of September 21, 1858.

47. Syracuse Daily Journal of September 22d, 1858.

48. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper for September 18th, 1858.

49. Harpers' Weekly, and Journal of Civilization for September 18th, 1858.

50. Emerson's Magazine, and Putnam's Monthly for August, 1858, presented by its editors, Oaksmith & Co., New York.

51. Coin of the United States.

52. An old Japanese coin, presented by Henry M. Allen, of Binghamton.

53. Small Metallic Head of Daniel Webster, presented by William Stuart, Esq., of Binghamton, N. Y.

54. Specimen of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, with a certificate by Cyrus W. Field, presented by Alfred J. Evans and J. F. Tozer, Binghamton, N. Y.

55. An Indian Pipe of Peace, and an Arrow from a Chief upon the upper waters of the Missouri River, presented by Cyrus S. Clapp, Esq., of Sioux City, Iowa.

CEREMONIES OF LAYING THE STONE,

BY THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

IN commencing, M. W. JOHN L. LEWIS, Jr., the Grand Master, directed the Grand Treasurer to deposit the Box in the corner-stone, and the stone was then laid in its proper place, under the direction of the Architect.

The Grand Master then said :

R. W. Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper jewel of your office ?

D. G. M.—The Square.

G. M.—What is its moral and Masonic use ?

D. G. M.—To square our actions by virtue, and to square and prove our work.

G. M.—Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the foundation-stone as needs to be squared, and make report.
[It was done.]

D. G. M.—M. W., I find the stone to be square ; the craftsmen have performed their duty.

G. M.—R. W. Sen. Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office ?

S. G. W.—The Level.

G. M.—What is its moral and Masonic use ?

S. G. W.—Morally, it reminds us of equality, and we use it to lay horizontals.

G. M.—Apply the implement of your office to the foundation-stone, and make report. [It was done.]

S. G. W.—M. W., I find the stone to be level; the craftsmen have performed their duty.

G. M.—R. W. Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

J. G. W.—The Plumb.

G. M.—What is its moral and Masonic use?

J. G. W.—Morally, it teaches rectitude of conduct, and we use it to try perpendiculars.

G. M.—Apply the implement of your office to the several edges of the foundation-stone, and make report. [It was done.]

J. G. W.—M. W., I find that the stone is plumb; the craftsmen have performed their duty.

G. M.—This corner-stone having been tested by the proper implements of Masonry, I find that the craftsmen have skillfully and faithfully performed their duty; and I declare the stone to be well formed, true and trusty, and truly and correctly laid, according to the rules of our ancient craft.

Prayer was then offered by the R. W. Grand Chaplain, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, in which the brethren joined with uncovered heads, and which produced a most striking effect. The response by them was, "So mote it be."

G. M.—Let the elements of consecration now be presented.

The brother who carried the vessel of corn (wheat), then presented it to the Grand Master, who presented it to the Grand Marshal, and he placed it in the hands of the D. G. M.

The D. Grand Master then scattered it on the stone, saying:

I scatter this corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessings

of bounteous heaven be showered down upon us, and upon all like patriotic and benevolent undertakings, and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom, and gratitude.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

The cup of wine was in like manner presented to the S. Grand Warden, who poured it upon the stone, and said :

I pour this wine as an emblem of joy and gladness. May the Grand Ruler of the Universe grant long life and continued health to the officers of our National, State, and Local Government—preserve the Union of the United States—and may it be a bond of friendship and brotherly love that shall endure through time.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

The cup of oil was also passed to the J. Grand Warden, who poured it upon the stone, and said :

I pour this oil as an emblem of peace. May its blessings abide with us continually, and may the Grand Master of Heaven and Earth shelter and protect the widow and the orphan—shield and protect them from the trials and vicissitudes of the world—and so bestow his mercy upon the bereaved, the afflicted, and the sorrowing, that they may know sorrow and sighing no more.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

The Grand Master then struck the stone three times with his gavel, and said :

Having now, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge and the Fraternity, duly laid the foundation-stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, according to the rules of our ancient craft, we should supplicate the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe upon the undertaking, and implore that he will be pleased to favor this noble Asylum of the unfortunate, wretched, and despairing, and make it productive of good to our common humanity—the just pride of our civilization, and an ornament to our great State.

Brethren, be reverently attentive to our R. W. G. Chaplain, while he supplicates in our behalf.

GRAND CHAPLAIN.—May the All Bounteous Author of Nature bless the inhabitants of this place, and all here assembled, with the necessities, comforts, and conveniences of life; assist in the erection and completion of this building, devoted to the great cause of temperance and morality; protect the workmen from every accident, and long preserve this structure from decay, and grant to us all a supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy. Amen.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

GRAND MASTER.—The grand honors will now be given. Attention! Together, brethren!

The grand honors were then given by three times three.

The Grand Master having seen and inspected the plan of the building, returned it, with the working tools, to the architect, and said:

MR. ARCHITECT: These plans having been adopted by the Trustees of the Asylum, and approved by us, we return them to you, together with these implements of your art, with the hope that under your skillful guidance the building may progress to completion with all due speed, and that it may long remain as an ornament of your skill as an architect, and the enterprise of those who projected the design.

The Grand Master then declared the ceremonies completed and the stone laid in ample form, and proceeded to deliver the following Address.

ADDRESS.

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:—The new and noble enterprise which the heart of benevolence planned, and the hand of mercy has urged upon the munificence of the State, has now been formally inducted. The implements of practical architecture have been applied, and the foundation stone has been laid according to the rules of that ancient science; but *we*, who stand here, the operative laborers of the hive, may be indulged, if in our true character as speculative masons we look forward to the consummation, and also hail the laying of the cap stone. It has been deemed the province of the Free Masons in the civilized countries of the earth, for the past rolling centuries, to inaugurate such enterprises as this, and in the quaint old style of the craft, approve the beginning, and crave blessings on the end. There is no mysticism in such an act. The square, the level, and the plumb, have each to us their instructive and speaking lessons, and their “language has literally gone throughout the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” I need not here repeat them, for they have grown as familiar as the lessons of childhood. The promptings of duty have brought us to this spot, and with the heartfelt thanks we owe to the friends of the asylum for permitting us as a Fraternity to bear a humble part in this great undertaking, are mingled cordial sympathies in its objects. The watchwords of

the Free Mason are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; and what enterprise of the day embodies more of these virtues than that which this edifice is designed to effect?

Looking, then, beyond the scenes of the present hour, its imposing array, its thronging multitude, and its aspects of joy and gladness, our prophetic fancy depicts a stately structure, not like most of the fanes of an Eastern world, devoted to the outward formalities of religion, not a temple of Mammon, not the abode of cold and haughty grandeur, but dedicated to the noble purposes of rescuing man from the abject slavery of his *own* appetites and passions; to assist him to cast off a debasing sensual thralldom, and to stand erect once more among his fellows in the pride and dignity of the manhood he had abjured. We, who seek to shelter the widow from the storms of life, and to stay and direct the future steps of orphanage, feel our heart's warmest emotions drawn out in behalf of the more than childless mother, the worse than widowed wife, and the crushed heart of childhood, whose great sorrow it is, that it is not fatherless. If our great State could rescue humanity from wandering amid the tombs, bereft of reason, it was worthy of a civilized and Christian Government to erect an asylum, where the self-destroying victim of intemperance could be restored to reason and usefulness, once more clothed in his right mind, and to bring light and joy and peace again to the family circle.

My brethren, the scenes of this instructing ceremonial should not be without their deep practical teachings to you. We make Temperance one of the

perfect points of entrance into our brotherhood; let it be to us more than a mere speculative idea; something more than a feature in our ritual. If the tools of our craft be each of them a teacher and a preacher of moral truth, let not the repetition of those truths cause our ears to grow so dull of hearing as to convey no impulse to the soul; and God grant that no one of you, my brethren, may so far forget the lessons he has learned beside our humble altars as to be a future inmate within these walls—a driveling, self-abandoned recipient of this noble charity.

Acting upon the square, walking by the plumb, and treading with careful footsteps upon the level of time toward the coming eternity, let our lives and conduct be our champions against the breath of reproach and the tongue of slander. Sectarian divisions have never yet divided us, political strife among us has never invaded our quiet retreat; do not let the allurements of pleasure or the impulses of passion mar the beautiful proportions of our great *spiritual temple*, which the storms of wordly contention have hitherto assailed in vain.

So shall it be when we lie down upon the bed of death, and kind hands shall lay us away in the grave, that our surviving brethren may bend over us and say, the “corner-stone of his moral and Masonic edifice was well laid and found to be true, tried and trusty, and he has become fitted as a living stone for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS,

BY HON. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, OF NEW YORK, PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FELLOW-CITIZENS AND FRIENDS:—The nature and design, the necessity and importance of the work this day begun by the New York State Inebriate Asylum, will be fully explained by gentlemen qualified to address you, and whom I shall presently have the honor to introduce to this assembly.

I shall not encroach upon their province, but shall proceed, at once, to perform the duty to which I am officially called. This is, first, to express, in behalf of the Board of Trustees, to the citizens of Binghamton, whose enlightened and munificent liberality has bestowed on us the ample domain within whose inclosure we have now come together, our sincere and most hearty thanks for this noble offering. It gives us all that we need, and more than we could have ventured to expect—a site for our buildings, elevated, airy, and conspicuous, yet easily accessible; near, and yet sufficiently retired from, a large and flourishing town, seated at the confluence of beautiful rivers, and connected by canal and railroads with every part of the State, and especially with its chief centres of trade and population—land happily adapted for gardens, walks, and farming purposes, with a right to water from perennial springs in adjoining premises, affording an abundant supply, both for ornament and use, of this invaluable element; and to fill the measure of our advantages, a landscape on every side, of wide extent

and surpassing loveliness, combining, in harmonious variety, hill and dale, rivers, valleys, forests and mountain-tops, with the habitations of man and the noblest creations of his inventive power. For this solid and most acceptable proof of their philanthropy, we repeat our thanks to the citizens of Binghamton.

I am also to make, in behalf of the Trustees, to our friends of the Masonic Fraternity, who have assisted on this occasion, our acknowledgments for their valuable aid and for their sympathy with our object.

It only remains that I should declare, as I now most gladly do, that the stone just laid in your presence is the corner-stone of the building to be erected by the Corporation of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, for the purposes of its charter. May the structure which is to rise from this foundation be built and kept by Him, without whose help and benediction all human endeavors are vain and valueless. May sound judgment and discretion, faithfulness and zeal, sympathy and kindness, be richly given to all who from time to time shall rule or manage the Institution, and more especially to those under whose professional treatment and control the inmates shall be placed.

Here may that peculiar form of human frailty and suffering and sorrow to whose relief it will be dedicated, find a sheltering and secure retreat; and may peace and order, wisdom and love, grace and consolation ever dwell within its walls. By such kindly and renovating influences may those who shall resort to it, be encouraged to enter and to delight in the path of reason, temperance, and duty; be confirmed in every good purpose; be redeemed from the bondage of evil habits; and be made, for all future time, strong, stead-

fast and victorious. By skillful and appropriate treatment, by communion with nature in that garniture of beauty and magnificence in which she is here arrayed, by manly and invigorating exercise and labor; by quiet and refreshing studies, by new habits of sobriety and self-control, and by the supporting grace of God, may the weak be strengthened, the desponding comforted, the fallen lifted up, the morally lost and dead be found and made alive again. Recovered of their maladies and restored to themselves, may they carry with them, from this house of healing, such soundness of body and of mind, as shall fit them for assuming a right and useful place in the domestic circle and in the communities to which they belong—some to shine again as luminaries in the constellations from which they may have fallen; others to become sources and centres of incalculable good to their families and friends; and each—even the humblest—to give to some stricken but loving heart the purest of earthly joys—that of receiving again, safe and sound, one who had been given up as hopelessly estranged from the path of usefulness, and wholly lost to the sweet charities of life. The work of mercy we begin to-day has been conceived, as we humbly hope, in the very spirit of Him who came to heal the broken-hearted, and who went about doing good. God grant to us, for His sake, to see the fulfillment of our wishes and endearments, in the restoration of many—bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh—now the victims of a condition the saddest and most deplorable, to the duties, the dignities, and hopes of rational, immortal, heaven-descended and heaven-aspiring men!

MR. BUTLER resumed his seat amid loud applause.

The President then introduced to the Assembly Dr. JOHN W. FRANCIS, of New York, who delivered the following Address, on the objects and necessities of the institution.

OPENING ADDRESS.

BY JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D., LL. D.

GENTLEMEN: I return you my sincere thanks for the honor you have assigned me in the exercises of this day, and for the favorable reception I have met. You all know that I present myself before you, on this occasion, rather at your solicitation than from my own choice. Resistance proving unavailing, I am here with you, and trust that, however imperfectly the duty committed to me may be discharged, you will bear in recollection that my ardent hopes are cherished for the success of your noble undertaking, and that I shall neglect no proper measure for the furtherance of your great design. A half-century or more, has repeatedly placed me in peculiar circumstances, but never until this time have I been awakened to higher responsibilities, when contemplating the vast movement now entered upon for the benefit of humanity, and the elevation of our race. Minds matured by the experience of practical life, philosophers imbued with the wisdom of rich culture, divines who have enriched the principles of religious faith by the potent example of good works, scholars whose closet elaborations have excited emotions of a wide philanthropy, and the eminent members of the liberal professions of every calling, have all, all coalesced, as one body, to organize

a plan worthy so illustrious a group of individualities, and which, in its issues, is destined to constitute an era in the progress of the social relationship of man.

You will tolerate me, when I affirm, before so vast and enlightened assembly, that the glory of a nation does not depend solely upon the multitude of its people, nor upon the richness of its soil, the mildness of its climate, or its wide domain; neither is it to be inferred from wealth appropriated to the arts, or to the refinements of taste. Blessings like these we indeed recognize, and can appreciate. There is a still higher aim, there are other attainments to be secured, if we would ennoble those faculties which a beneficent Creator has endowed us with; if we would elevate man to his proper and inherent dignity; if we would awaken that knowledge which teaches us we are not born for ourselves alone; but that our existence is a divine gift; that our physical and mental powers are bestowed for wisest ends; that the obligations of man to man are reciprocal, and that our talents are not to be wasted on ignoble and unworthy objects. Those mysterious powers and faculties which Heaven has vouchsafed for our needs, and which give to man his pre-eminence in creation, by a wise law, are the immediate agents from which spring up our physical wants while sojourners here; and through which, indeed, our highest spiritual edification is at length realized. The due observance of the laws of life is our imperative duty, and to become proficient in the fulfilment of these behests, is the prerogative granted us by our Maker. To rear up that fabric, therefore, so divinely constructed, to cultivate its development,

to guard it against those annoyances which might impair its strength and mar its usefulness, during its allotted duration, are the sacred duties enjoined upon us. A responsible mission, you will admit.

Reflections like these, or of a kindred nature, must have had their weight on the minds of the benevolent and patriotic individuals who originated the institution, the corner-stone of which is this day adjusted in its appropriate spot. To give the fullest demonstration of the fact, that the wholesome leaven which worked out so many good results among our primitive settlers, in earlier days, has not abated of its excellence, by amalgamation, in our cosmopolitan State; to add one other to the long list of great charities which signalize New York, is the cause of the gathering together of this vast assembly; and the exclusive purposes which its benefactors design to fulfill, give it a significance and importance equally remarkable.

You can anticipate me in the declaration that such views of life, the nature of which I have thus briefly stated, have for several years been entertained by the original projectors of this hospital, and animated their exertions. It was by no means too bold an assumption on their part, to argue that inebriety is the deadliest foe to man's health of body and integrity of intellect; that a general distrust of the capacity of such an individual, to discharge faithfully the offices of life, is a perpetual obstacle to confidence, none will dispute; and that he only could profitably fulfill the responsibilities of a member of the common fraternity of mankind, who is actually free from the vice of intemperance. The venerable Hippocratic precept, embalmed

in the classical satire of Juvenal, touching the proper condition of a faithful agent in the business of life had not escaped the recollection of our philanthropic projectors:

Mens sana in corpore sano.

I have more or less implied that the health of a nation is the first and paramount condition to be aimed at by a wise legislation. However high may be the estimate we form of the blessings of education, even the privileges secured to the cultivated intellect are blighted when trammelled by moral and physical infirmities. The obstacles which knowledge encounters when thus associated, forfeits its wonted majesty and reduces its possessor below the level of positive ignorance; and what avails the parchment of the most erudite scholar, when he is lost to the dignity of moral worth. The unfortunate victim himself is unable to fathom the depths of his own disgrace, or conceive the impotency of all his learning. Moreover, the inward reproaches of such a sufferer not merely give manifestations often irrational to the beholder, but demonstrations of remorse inexplicable to all rules of reason.

A dominant cause whose insidious operations were felt and known to be so extensive and pernicious, could not fail in its melancholy displays to strike the philanthropic bosom with dismay and sorrow; a common enemy, thus armed with the weapons of destruction, demanded provision for the assailed, to meet the exigencies of the times; thinking men, with deep anxieties had long looked forward for some measure of relief when necessity would urge certain means of a

practical character to abate the sufferings of the people; and thanks to Almighty God, the keen sagacity of our disinterested founders has called in requisition the safe, the abiding, the effective plan best calculated to circumscribe the direful evil, and liberate society from the burden of its disgrace and misery.

The annals of medical literature have long borne testimony to the ravages which inebriation has inflicted on the world, and forensic enactments have struggled with thousand devices to mitigate the evil and guard the interests of society. Different nations have at different times promulgated laws more or less lenient or severe: sometimes drunkenness might be looked upon as a mere matter of police; and at other periods, summoning legal provisions indicating the magnitude of the crime. The moral phases of the calamity seem to have been too generally overlooked.

The appalling extent of intemperance in the earlier part of the present century, both in foreign lands and in our own country, gave origin to Temperance Societies. Casual appeals to reason had left no impression on the mind, and invectives were pronounced the offspring of sinister motives: the pride of individual opinion frowned down the counsels of the deliberate head. Individual efforts at reform consequently failed, and association was adopted. This great measure, the offspring of American sagacity, originated in 1826, and it is due to truth, for services rendered, to say that to the able writings and unwearied labors of the venerable Dr. Lyman Beecher, we are under greater obligations for this benignant project, than to any other individual, numerous and weighty as have been the

co-laborers in the great cause. I cannot at present attempt an account of these Temperance Associations, or notice the various methods adopted by them at different periods of their organization, whatever exception may be taken to errors of theory or its occasional mode of assertion. I think I shall have the concurrence of all, when I assert that a large amount of good to individuals, to families, nay, to the Republic at large, has been accomplished by them: their pledges have not been without their use, and I fondly trust that the Temperance advocates may not lessen their efforts in their godlike work, governed by a wise, conservative principle, which may enlarge their sphere of usefulness and accomplish their fundamental and laudable ends. Their literature has given them a wide renown; while it has been ample, it has proved wholesome in its nature and rich in illustration.

The few and imperfect remarks which I have already made, will supersede any lengthened disquisition on the expediency of the measures proposed to be adopted this day. Profitable as in many respects it might be, to allude still further to those latent sources of the evils we complain of, it would be presumptuous in me longer to detain you with expressions of regret at the enormous crimes and wide-spread sufferings which intemperance has brought upon the land, or point out the difficulties and defects of our present therapeutical or remedial processes. The conflicting laws on the subject, for the benefit of the social compact, bewilder philosophy, and too often set at naught the sober judgment of the wisest, when viewed with the express design to alleviate the community of the

penalties of inebriety. The soundest of jurists have apprehended the greatest evils, when drunkenness has been set up as a defence, or as a mitigation of crime. With the ancient Greeks, those who committed violations in law, while in a state of intoxication, were doomed to double punishment; while among us, in our own day, we too often find the saddest misdeeds, the offspring of that degraded state, followed by no penalty whatever. From this uncertain state of legislation little benefit can follow, and the pestilence is still rife, with all our sanitary devices. A new condition, a radical change is demanded to be wrought among the people. If national character is not to be degraded into a proverb, a mighty reform in thought and in habit is to be effected, and man is to be regarded, not as a machine, but as a reflecting and responsible being. It may be asserted, without qualification, that the moral sentiment of the people is to be elevated. We must inculcate a detestation of the crime of the inebriate with an earnestness at least equal to the approbation we would bestow on the actions of the virtuous and the wise. The duty to punish offenses is always painful; to prevent them may be deemed neither invidious nor painful. In the latter case, we may often find reward in the acquiescence of him who acknowledges the benefit. We must feel, moreover, that man is too precious to be left to self-destruction, and every suggestion which philosophy can make, every principle which experience can teach, every motive which religion and humanity can awaken, is to be summoned to the regeneration.

The wonderful age in which we are permitted to

live, has been fertile in devices for man's benefit. His physical nature, his mental appetites, his creature comforts, all have excited the attention of the benevolent, the provident, and the wise ; and our rank is still high among civilized nations, for the probity of our General and State Governments, for their watchful care and parental wisdom, to promote our common prosperity, and for the regard which has been bestowed on the poor, the illiterate, and the unfortunate, of every order, and of every clime. Well-directed efforts have characterized our social proceedings in this era of liberal appropriations. Contributions from all quarters have flowed in, for the advancement of praiseworthy objects, and cheering results, both in public and private affairs, have crowned our labors.

But time engenders circumstances, and momentous occurrences arise in the revolution of affairs ; and, as if our condition was ever to be progressive, light is constantly shedding its benignant rays with increased power and splendor, and unfolding to probationary man new views and striking phenomena but partially observed before, new principles, hitherto overlooked, new problems for solution, new demands for the exercise of his talents, new stimuli for his nature, and new arguments for the extension of his philanthropy. The laws of his nature render him capable of imbibing wisdom with every revolving day, and his studies advance with his acquisitions. Progress, progress, is the order of the day—excelsior is the standard. The casual expedient of a former time may have become, and wisely, too, a fixed and permanent appliance ; the suggestion of an indifferent moment may have matured

principles of enduring efficacy ; what was once pronounced visionary, may have secured to itself, in the evolution of time, a great reality. This is the course of discovery ; it is no more nor less than the development of art, the history of philosophy—and it will ever render the calm surveyor of human affairs, and the unprejudiced observer, the deliberate judge and the deferential critic. The hopeful spirit is strengthened, while contemplating the parable of the mustard-seed, with the changes and the results which the progress of time achieves.

Everybody is acquainted with the fact, how Franklin, by his kite, demonstrated the identity of lightning and electricity. When that ingenious man left his study, and set out for the banks of the Schuylkill, to divine the great problem, I dare say, individual stragglers might have been seen on the road, making merry at his fanciful notions. But his child-like apparatus developed what is now universally called the science of electricity. He thus became the founder and the illustrator of an entire and distinct branch of knowledge ; and the annals of philosophy record not such another name associated with so vast a demonstration. Electricity has become the expositor of untold mysteries ; it has penetrated into the hidden nature of the physical world ; it has called into active agency the dormant principles of matter ; it has developed the secrets of creation ; and not a new law in discovery is made manifest, without its agency : by it, the sunbeam has become the mighty artist ; by it, the telegraph is made an intellectual medium for universal man. Yes ! 'tis but as yesterday, that the people of a vast conti-

ment were offering up to Heaven shouts of joy, and laudations in testimony to the noble, the mighty, the magical achievement of this great and scientific age, its latest performance having its legitimate origin from the childish plaything, Dr. Franklin's kite! Are we not to derive wisdom from the past? A thought in its progress has enlightened the world! The amber-witch has stretched her wings across the broad Atlantic; and what was once confined within a thimble, expands itself in uniting two hemispheres. Such are the gifts of philosophy to mortals; such are the fruits of that education, which researches into the laws of creation yield, and which so instructively vindicate the wisdom of the Omnipotent.

If these are the rewards of physical investigation, let me ask, are the higher and more intricate branches of philosophical culture less prolific of blessings? Is the study of that wonderful microcosm, man, to be looked upon with less deference than we bestow upon material things? Is the preservation of that link in the chain of being, by which the continuance of the species is perpetuated, a subject of indifference? Is the integrity of that organization, which secures the intellectual faculties in their divine harmony, a secondary object; and are we to remain listless in our inquiries into those causes which disturb and ruin its healthy condition, which substitute insanity and idiocy for its controlling powers? Are there no lessons of wisdom to be taught from that change, which converts the sober into the drunken, happiness into misery; which gives to delusion the wildest fancies, and transforms the lovely and attractive into the hideous and repul-

sive ; that abrogates reason with all her boasted prerogatives ? Are we forbidden to scrutinize those causes which, in their insidious advancement, lead the temporal and the transient into the fixed and permanent ; which, by a multiplying power in their successive operation, work a change which, at first considered as a momentary delirium, is finally settled into an absolute insanity ? The dethroned mind is a study beyond the classics of the schoolmen. And oh, its hereditary entail ! In short, there is no controverting this pregnant declaration, that the primary origin or predisposition, the actual essence of this calamity, is often traceable to this latent cause, and matter itself is thus rendered more or less subordinate to mental impulse and nervous irritability. Special instances of this fact have fallen under the cognizance of every practical physician ; and the Scripture truth, that the sins of the parent are visited on the offspring, holds good with the corruptions of inebriety, as with other infirmities of our human nature.

This is no fancy sketch ; the ethical history of our country presents the agonizing truth in broadest illustration. The people at large know it, and acknowledge it. The holy expositor, at his sacred desk, feels it. The forensic physiologist is taxed with labored cogitation by it. As a medical man, I might fill an ample page in confirmation, at which philanthropy might weep, and despair usurp the hopes of the most tolerant humanist.

I am aware that the age itself is in part amenable for the sufferings which individuals endure, and for the extension of that calamity we so much lament.

Intemperance is at our very threshold; pernicious habits are contagious, and man is an imitative animal. How multiform the agents that have wrought this gloomy state; what a mine of iniquity have we to explore to comprehend their respective bearings, even in individual examples. The spirit of enterprise is potent and pervading: profitable or munificent results wait, at least in prospective, upon every measure. The vital forces of our race are taxed beyond their normal equilibrium; body and mind have comparative little repose; there is no holiday for the soul; the stimulus of gain, or other vanity, creates inordinate pulsations in every heart. Its seductive power leads captive the low and the vulgar, the high and the refined; it beats at every breast. Do we wonder that the expended energies demand supplies; temptation is thus doubly powerful; hence, then, the artificial excitement which in so many ways renders life a forced state of existence. The enticing draught, whether from the golden goblet or the pewter mug, finds favor with every order of society—the peasant and the ruler, the mechanic, the artist, and he who aims to dignify the walks of professional life. Moreover, besides all these, we have the concurring influences of a climate characterized by extremes of temperature, a people of a susceptible and nervous temperament; we have unbounded freedom of action; parental restraint is scarcely known; and, more unfortunate still, we suffer the penalty of unsettled legislation, and inoperative and lax laws.

But not to enlarge this catalogue of direful circumstances, which clearly do the work of misery, have we

not reasons of the most binding and imperative nature, to unite as one man, to quicken our zeal in the execution of the great work now contemplated, to perfect that design which has so long absorbed your care, and summoned to the profoundest deliberation the highest faculties of your nature? Surely, with the present elevated state of medical science, it is not arrogating too much to cherish the belief that public opinion will not be diminished in its confidence, and that public morals, and the social habits of the times, will be improved by your munificent measures.

Citizens of the State of New York! This mighty gathering is demonstrative of the deep interest the public feel in the transactions now occurring before you. On this day is laid the foundation of a new temple, devoted to science and humanity; and it has been decided to build up and sustain, for present, and for after time, a Hospital, for the exclusive benefit of a class of sufferers, the most pitiable of all patients; to rear a charity for the intemperate—most significantly called an Asylum for Inebriates. God speed the work! It is a proud event in my life, to be present with you on this occasion. Your undertaking is colossal; it is a vast conception; it is an index of the signs of the times; and you have only done justice to the present elevated condition of psychological knowledge, and the capacity of the age, by your noble movements. It is no compliment to say, that this town of Binghamton, by its great endowment, has evinced a noble patriotism. The site selected for your charity, is such as taste approves, and judgment confirms, as singularly calculated for the salutary ends you have in view. Its

rural attributes give it additional charms, for mental recreation and physical improvement. Your architectural plans possess an adaptation which the best experience in hygienic affairs announces to be of great excellence. Their extent betokens an advantageous retreat for the enfeebled inmate, and the harrowed soul. I see in them no niggardly expedients, to cripple, in any manner, the sublime purposes you contemplate. These you may consider strong terms, in acknowledgment of the labors already performed; but how are they multiplied, when the almost incredible declaration is proclaimed, that the Inebriate Hospital is a new minister in the service of man: its commission is original; it has no example, either in the Old, or in the New World; it has no precedent to follow; it triumphs in the novelty of its great intent; it is primary in an exalted work—in an exclusive purpose—to secure the inebriate from degradation and death, and restore to society, to families, to relatives and friends, their hopeless members. With such a theme before me, dare I rest satisfied with a subdued language? In the whole range of useful undertakings, has humanity ever assumed a more exalted work?

Does a doubt float in the minds of any who now hear me, that such an issue may flow from this new hospital; that the great changes of place, and scenery, and habits of life, the radical alterations determined upon in the discipline of the hospital itself, the novel, impressive, and delectable associations which may be formed by congenial intercourse, by books, by the judicious treatment of body and mind, which medical science enjoins, under the direction of approved phy-

sicians, will possess a power adequate to the accomplishment of such blessed results? Yours is no tentative measure, in its minute details; common sense, and practical principles, come in as controlling agents in your behalf. Let me, then, tell the doubter, that professional skill and adjuvants, such as I have enumerated, have saved many victims to drunkenness from an untimely grave, and restored faculties of the highest order, once prostrate, to the exercise of their wonted duties and usefulness.

Is it uncharitable to consider inebriety a disease, often of the worst form that afflicts man? Every physician of experience will tell you of his own sufferings and trials in encountering cases of that agonizing character, and of the discouragements he has met with, lest the prospect of that sad termination of the disorder, in insanity and idiocy might be realized. It is the close resemblance which Inebriety bears to Madness—it is the approximation of the infirmity to insanity itself, often in its mildest forms, which has hitherto proved the great barrier to our successful treatment. But this vast difficulty, great as it is, has lessened with quotidian experience in modern times, and is now actually the anchor of our hope, amid the perplexities which once encompassed us. What was the condition and treatment of the insane some fifty years ago, both abroad and at home, at the period at which was established our first mad-house, under the charge of Dr. Archibald Bruce, on the hospital grounds in Broadway? The near relation of psychology and physiology was then wholly disregarded. The influence of functional life was hardly noticed. At that day, the

lunatic was looked upon with horror, and as irrecoverably lost to himself and to the world. This, however, was but the adoption of the common practice of enlightened Europe at that period. How limited was our art concerning the mind, and its operations in a diseased state! How indiscriminate were our nosological distinctions, as to causes and effects in mental disorders—how sluggish was inquiry into constitutional peculiarities, hereditary influences, inter-marriages, and the too often concealed agencies operated upon by habits, temperament, and the like! The blockhead and the child of genius were gazed upon with like apathy, through the same mirror. With such oversights, do we marvel that the straight-jacket constituted the pharmacopœia; and is it too much to say, that the remedial treatment of that period must have often been as mad as the patient?

Let us reverse the picture, and see what has been the reform effected during the generation just passed. The great amelioration in the treatment of the insane commenced under the sagacious Pinel, of Paris, at the Bicetre, and at the Retreat at York, in England, under the direction of Samuel Tuke, by the introduction of the moral management. The details of the system are too long for enumeration here. The vast abuses which had crept into the lunatic asylums of Great Britain, called for Parliamentary inquiry; and in 1815-16, the fruits of their labors were made known—the public attention was engrossed on the subject. It was my good luck, while a visitor abroad at that time, personally to survey all the prominent institutions devoted to insanity in the United King-

dom, and those of Holland, Belgium, and Paris. I could add to the testimony of the Committee's Report confirmatory matter, from actual inspection. The discipline and treatment in many of the institutions were degrading to humanity, and a sad comment on the pathological doctrines of the day. The everlasting night which encompassed the afflicted lunatic, and the bolts, and bars, and manacles, which he endured, evinced little science of the disease, and still less of the method of cure. But knowledge has at length winged her way even into the intricacies of the human mind. The dark and noisome cell has been converted into the attractive parlor, and the spacious hall. Hygienic principles have rejected the loathsome arrangements suggested by ignorance and indifference; seclusion is adopted but in rare cases; everything is now substituted to produce a change of thought, break up morbid continuity, and lead to diversion of mind; occupation and amusements are devised, in place of listlessness; light, and air, and exercise admitted into the room of sequestered idleness and brooding melancholy. Old associations are broken up; old things done away, and all things, as far as practicable, made new. The disordered state of the brain and the sensitive nerves are furnished with appropriate appliances, and a *materia medica* employed, with the cautious inferences of diagnosis and pathological study. No longer is a special day set apart for this or that class of heroic remedies, to harass the vitals of the unfortunate inmate. Tuesday is not appropriated for emetics, nor Friday to cathartics, as I was informed was pursued at Bethlehem, according to astrological science, I inferred. Nor is

the patient subjected to the severe flagellation which George III. received, at the earnest request of his consulting physician, Dr. Willis. The aged monarch never forgot those cruel stripes, nor could he ever after permit Willis to be in his presence. We are indebted to Dr. Rush for the disclosure of this remarkable fact ; it was long concealed, by covert obligations. Those manacles, and ponderous chains (which, by the by, were heavier in Holland than I saw elsewhere), whose clanging sounds seem even now to reverberate in my ears, are stricken off, and the lunatic rejoices in the habiliments of a man.

Let all praise be given to Pinel, to Pritchard, Burrows, Esquirol, Connelly, Ray, and others, who have so successfully studied the philosophy of mind, and so happily alleviated its hallucinations !

The earliest movements abroad of the Reform-practice on insanity were soon comprehended by the prominent men of New York. The philanthropic Thomas Eddy and De Witt Clinton were early possessed of the leading facts, and these public worthies were well supported by those unimpeachable citizens of the City of New York, Matthew Clarkson, Jonathan Goodhue, Robert Bowne, Isaac Collins, Samuel Wood, and others, of like worth. I have the best reasons to know how assiduously Thomas Eddy, in particular, maintained an active correspondence on the great subject, with the excellent Samuel Tuke, of York, with William Roscoe, of Liverpool, and Patrick Colquhoun, of London.

The noble grant of the State, for the support of the New York Hospital, and the Bloomingdale Asylum

for the Insane, had just been secured by legislative enactment, and nothing could have been more timely than the intelligence from abroad on Lunacy. The Bloomingdale Asylum took its rise with the leading improvements; the moral management, or treatment, was carried out, and New York thus secured the honor of being the first of the States to illustrate the benefits of the great innovation. Justice to the benevolence of the American character, demands that it be recorded, that, in this country, the mere personal security of maniacal patients, by chains and manacles, was comparatively rarely pressed into service. Indeed, the whole number of mortals afflicted with insanity, throughout the Union, had not probably, in the aggregate, greatly exceeded, in the weight of their iron fetters, that stated of the memorable case of Norris, by Haslam, of Bethlehem Hospital. The cell of Norris, with its peculiar furniture, seemed to me to appear more like the shop of Vulcan, than as the apartment of an afflicted patient.

Let me put the question, before I close, with the sincerity which its importance demands. If such be the results which modern discovery and experience have wrought in the management and treatment of insanity in general, have we not strong and cheering evidence to infer, that that particular form of the disease which the projected Asylum for Inebriates contemplates to admit as its inmates, may be disciplined with equal success. A thousand causes can readily be specified for the origin of the thousand protean forms or types which insanity may assume, and yet in the midst of so many difficulties, science has triumphed,

and statistics have announced her conquests. Read the clinical reports of the Asylum at Utica, of the Bloomingdale, and of others in different parts of the Union. We may safely say the old system of practical torture is overthrown. The professors of the healing art have no reason to blush at this result. Whatever praises we may bestow on the investigations of the metaphysician, the voice of truth must award the triumph to the recondite labors of modern medical science.

The Hospital for Inebriates is to be appropriated exclusively to one class of inmates, and, although that class is a formidable one, the physician is not to be distracted in searching into the immediate cause; let the characteristics of the disorder vary however much, let it be called mania, or melancholia, inebriety, or mania-a-potu, delirium tremens, hallucination, or by any other name, the agent that has induced the calamity we recognize to be drunkenness or intemperance; and here is much knowledge for the prescriber, already at hand, to begin with. The predisposing or remote causes, and all else requisite to the full comprehension of the individual case, will, of necessity, fall within his cognizance. The light that has been thrown, in our own day, on the effects of inebriety, and its numerous morbid manifestations, like the great principles which modify modern practice with other forms of mental disorder, strengthens the conviction that professional knowledge of the subject is advancing and enlarging its powers. It was suggested to me, as a suitable topic for this opening address, that I might give a professional discourse on drunkenness, describe its perversions

of the intellectual faculties, its moral degradation, and its ravages on organic life. Years ago I published, in a treatise called *Bacchus*, the anatomy of drunkenness; and your primary projector of the *Inebriate Asylum*, your able coadjutor, Dr. Turner, has given us a tract of great value on the *History and Pathology of the disease*. The task, thus proposed, must have proved oppressive, both to the speaker and to his hearers, however briefly performed. The phenomena of insanity in general, and those of *mania-a-potu* in particular, have much in common. If there be little in their inception, there is often much in their development. The experienced physician will often be, at first sight, perplexed by that strange and anomalous combination of symptoms, which mark the direct influence of alcoholic stimuli on the vascular structure of the cerebral organ; and our sympathies are often awakened to the observance of a singular train of abnormal peculiarities: thus criminal accountability seems often to be set at naught, equally as in cases of other types of lunacy. Diseases of the understanding may arise from mental as well as from corporeal causes; diseases of mind may induce physical changes of body; and organic changes of body may be the source of disturbed manifestations of mind. Pathology unfolds these truths, the knife of the anatomist renders them palpable. It is a well-founded axiom in our science, that physical causes influence the moral faculties. The keen susceptibilities of that harp of a thousand strings often control the actions of organic life, while the admitted fact is not to be gainsayed, that the feelings

and functions of existence are modified by a departure from the normal condition.

Amid most unsettled knowledge, we may safely infer that organic changes are more frequently found in the bodies of inebriates than in those whose lamentable end has proceeded from what I may call idiopathic insanity. In the instances which I have made of post-mortem examinations of cadavers of the intemperate (and my opportunities have been ample, as medical witness in our courts), the ravages of disordered action have been displayed far more extensively in the great organs of functional life, than are found in cases of mental derangement from other causes. I omit details: the brain, the heart, the lungs, the stomach, the liver, and kidneys, are most vulnerable to the influence of alcoholic potations, and it would be absurd to deny that the functional action of such organs broken up, would be otherwise than sadly detrimental to the profitable action of the cerebral mass. Old Mr. Fyfe told me he had witnessed, on the dissecting-table, the liver of fifty pounds weight, in the case of a diseased East India captain; but this, it was frankly admitted, was a rare fact, even to the Edinburgh anatomist. I never encountered so formidable a liver; it was of size sufficient to create bile for an army; yet the probability is, that it secreted not a particle. On the other hand, it has been again and again noticed, that that potent organ, the liver, has degenerated into almost a nonentity, by a sort of secret combustion, if I may indulge in the use of such language, and that its normal powers have been brought to the same state of inefficiency, by contraction or scirrhus.

It is impossible, at this time, to dwell upon the morbid appearances effected by drunkenness. Every fibre, every tissue of the body, is subjected to its all-pervading influence. No part, however, demonstrates its sad ravages more frequently than the brain. The knife of the dissector shows the changes here to be many, and most afflicting. Inflammation, and adhesions, and effusions, perhaps, are the commonest forms of the altered state. The poison itself is often actually found in the ventricles of the brain, and upon the bony covering being removed, the exhalation of alcohol is strongly perceptible. Apply a lighted taper, and the process of combustion is in full force. This striking fact was first noticed by Dr. Cook, of London; but many have made the experiment with like results. Here, then, we have the brain on fire, saturated with the narcotic poison—and this I have seen in a subject, a habitual inebriate, twelve hours after his decease from an excessive debauch. As medical witness in numerous cases of criminal trials in New York, I have borne testimony to the truth of these pathological facts derived from dissection, many of which I have performed. How wonderfully does all this seem to corroborate the opinion of old Judge Dagget, of Connecticut: "There is no more nourishment in alcohol," quoth the venerable Judge, "than in a stroke of lightning."

What must be the peculiar condition of the intellectual faculties in those who become victims of inebriation, can readily be prognosticated. The poet Cowper most pathetically exclaims: "O the fever of the mind!" he had reference to general insanity, or melancholia. What language would the bard have used,

to give a faithful description of the sufferings of the alcoholic brain? The brain is the seat and throne of the insidious conqueror; and could it give utterance to its woes, no sorrow would be found of equal poignancy.

So sad is the alteration of functional life in the inebriate, that none can form an accurate idea of the disturbed and irregular manifestations of the forlorn victim to alcohol, by description alone; they are to be witnessed, in order to reach the understanding. The adhesiveness of the intellectual powers is broken up—a solution of continuity of thought is the result. Memory is shattered at its very foundation; this mental degradation leads to an utter disregard of truth; and the lying faculty is an attribute that ever waits with proudest bearing, upon intemperance. All this is easily accounted for: the moral sense is perverted; returning consciousness leads to irascibility; the most dreadful acts are deemed by the deluded patient to be mere foibles; remorse may follow refutation, and lucky, indeed, is the case, if the disaster closes here.

With the facts which I have briefly stated, we are irresistibly led to the conclusion, that the disease of intemperance, like that of insanity, in its wide acceptance, is to be controlled and regulated largely by moral management, so great have been the advances in curative measures obtained by the persevering labors of medical men. Both classes of sufferers were once treated in the same manner; and often, in formidable cases of each, opium administered, as in cholera, without limitation. Improved therapeutical measures are now interposed, because new principles determine

a new and more enlightened practice. We are led to another conclusion, that it is our duty early to seize the inebriate, for the better security of his restoration, to apply those salutary principles in due season, and thus arrest the progress of organic changes, the great difficulty to encounter in chronic cases. Besides, we are ever to bear in mind, that no infirmity of our physical existence acquires by indulgence a greater proneness to repetition, and finally establishes a habit of deepest regret. But more than this: how lost is that condition, when the intellectual becomes subordinate to the material, and the will is compelled to yield its mastery to the all-conquering appetite! Is not such a degradation lower than that of the beasts of the field! Preventive means, therefore, are our firmest security; and this hospital is largely to be regarded in that benignant system.

It is not the spirit of innovation that has in any wise prompted the language or the sentiment of this address. The industry, the ability, and the disinterestedness which have been elicited in the performance of the great work before us, put at defiance all distrust as to purity of intention, directed by an honest desire to benefit society. Should any objection to a generous support of the contemplated organization derive countenance from the belief promulgated by some, that we have already an abundance of charities, hospitals, asylums, alms-houses, and like establishments for the reception of inebriates, it may be remarked that these institutions, with all their excellence, are not fit retreats for the class of sufferers you hope to benefit. And so well comprehended is this great practical fact, that, of

late years, it has become a difficult business to obtain entrance for the victim to drunkenness within their walls. The doors of these institutions have indeed been repeatedly closed against such inmates, from incompatibility with the execution of their expressed designs. At this I do not marvel. A specific object is the groundwork of all the efforts now called in requisition by *your* present operations—to create a new-born institution, characterized by an adaption peculiar in its kind, the results of an advancement in the science of humanity.

The progress thus far made for securing the final resources for the erection of this asylum has, I am informed, been the work principally of individual effort, generously applied, and the prompt support already advanced gives cheering hopes of ultimate success. A sound brain and a big heart, have been at work. Logical reasoning had awakened, years ago, in a noble breast, a broad and enlightened humanity, which, in the exercise of its wonted attributes, is destined to lead to an amelioration of the condition of civilization itself; and I think that mankind at large, so deeply interested in the measure, will, at no remote day, find pleasure in assigning to our devoted laborer—Dr. J. Edward Turner—the triumphs justly awarded to the disinterested philanthropist.

There can be no doubt that the State will extend its powerful hand to this institution, as she so liberally does to our other charities, and that the guardians of the public welfare will apportion to it such revenue as may be adequate to your wants. This would prove but an act of reciprocity honorable to all concerned. If the State stamps the vice, it thus furnishes the

remedy. An institution, such as that now under consideration, speaks not in anger, but in pathetic tones of caution, bearing its solemn, perpetual witness, with "slow, unmoving finger," from those now-rising walls, of the danger and calamity which flesh is heir to. It is the lighthouse on the rock, provided with the means of restoration and safety to the shipwrecked, but preserving uncounted thousands by its friendly beams of warning.

It is apparent, however, that too many circumstances favor the projection and organization of this establishment, to entertain for a moment the idea that neglect at any time will mark the action of our State authorities. The intellectual refinement of the age forbids the thought; the people at large are too much interested in its success; legislation cannot become so short-sighted, as to look with coldness on the design; and public sentiment must overpower adverse feelings, if perchance, such a miraculous interposition should unfortunately occur, against an at present universal acquiescence. Free from political or party thralldom, exempt from the sectional prejudice of religious or sectarian orders, scarcely a conjecture can surprise us from any quarter that this great innovation must fail of success. For my own part, if so humble an individual as myself may give utterance to the confidence which pervades his bosom, I think the powers invested in your council, actuated by that forcible resolve which characterized your first movement in this lofty enterprise, will bear you onwards with accelerated energy to the consummation of your fondest hopes, and that all parties will become satisfied with

the mellowed results of your sagacious policy. I was peculiarly delighted, when at our last general meeting of the Board, I found such unanimity of opinion in your able deliberations, such a united conviction of the importance of an Asylum of the nature of that contemplated, that all felt the importance of the plan, that no diversity of sentiment was noticed as to the means summoned for its support, that a conspiring harmony in debate was auspicious of that destiny so ardently desired by all. There is already a gladness that reigns in the hearts of many who have heard of the organization of this hospital. I have received strong assurance from responsible quarters, that what your wisdom and your forethought have devised, legislative bounty will countenance and preserve. You have reasoned the matter well, and the time of action has now arrived. From the scattered reports which reach me, multitudes already seem to cry out with solicitude for the living waters of your contemplated Bethesda.

May the great work proceed with all possible encouragement—may the present generation profit by your heroic efforts—may we indulge the pleasing hope that a new truth has been discovered for the benefit of society, that the workings of a new principle thus grounded, may receive the approbation of future judgment, and posterity bear record in Heaven of the fruits of your voluntary zeal and enlightened wisdom.

Dr. FRANCIS was heard with marked attention, and was warmly applauded when he closed.

Music by the band.

THE REV. HENRY W. BELLOWES, D. D., of New York, was now introduced to the audience, by the President, and delivered the following Address :

ADDRESS.

BY REV. H. W. BELLOWS, D. D.

THE beginnings of enterprises which involve great interests and important principles are always impressive. The *first* of that which is probably destined to have no *last* while the world stands, must attract and fix the attention of all thoughtful persons. We are laying here the corner-stone, not merely of an edifice, but of a principle and a custom. An Asylum for Inebriates is a new thing under the sun. The arguments which have brought this into existence, must rapidly bring others; the obstacles which have been laboriously overcome here, must henceforth more easily yield elsewhere; the principle conceded, the example set, the custom begun in this case, must inevitably, as we think, be accepted, until Inebriate Asylums are as well understood, and as common institutions, in proportion to the amount of evil they have to deal with, as Asylums for the Insane, and for the Blind and Deaf. If so great a future, and such large results, belong to the step we are now taking, it is important to note distinctly what are the new principles, what the fresh convictions, inaugurated in the event which brings us together to-day. It is not to be supposed that the movement which has ended in the establishment of this institution, however much it may owe to the strong convictions, the wise conduct, the patient zeal, the indomitable perseverance, of Dr. TURNER, whose claims on our gratitude and respect are so large, and

so heartily recognized, is chiefly an impulse of his mind and heart. He does but represent, as his experience in collecting the funds upon which you are proceeding to erect this edifice has convincingly taught him, a wide-spread and deep-seated conviction of society at large. A far deeper, broader, and maturer sentiment, in respect to the necessity and the beneficence of such an institution, than its best and most hopeful advocates had calculated upon, is now proved to exist. And what we are giving voice to to-day, is not the sentiment of this enlightened town, which, in giving the choicest ground within its magnificent territory for the site of the first Inebriate Asylum, and thus forever identifying itself with a fruitful and exalted project, has richly provided for its future reputation, as a community of mingled sagacity and benevolence, of noble public spirit, and intelligent self-interest; it is not the sentiment of an eminent and philanthropic body of Trustees, whose children will read their names in the records of this day's work, as among their chief titles to memory and respect; it is not the sentiment of a small and devoted class of men, profoundly convicted of the necessity of this special enterprise, who have borne the brunt of its labor, encountered the odium of its novelty, ventured the risks of its failure, and who now peculiarly enjoy the proud satisfaction of seeing their faith, hope, and charity, substantiated by acts of legislative, municipal, and illustrious private encouragement. No; what we are giving voice to to-day, is the sentiment of the State of New York, collected from the testimony of her four hundred chief lawyers, her four hundred chief minis-

ters, her eight hundred chief physicians, her fifteen hundred leading merchants, and all her great functionaries on the Bench, and in the chairs of her most responsible offices! Perhaps no philanthropic or moral movement ever undertaken had, at its very start, such an endorsement as this. And I may safely say, that a principle or a policy, which, in so short a time, without partisan or excited appeal, independently of any system of public agitation or apparatus of popular effect, could command the countenance, support, and sympathy of the men whose names are enrolled as the stockholders of this Institution—a principle and a policy which thus has all the representative men of the Empire State for its indorsers and friends—may be considered as an established principle, an established policy—has but to make its call in all other States, to be answered in the same way—has but to ask the support of the civilized world in all other countries, to receive it; and may, therefore, be considered as already in possession of the confidence, and of the heart and hand of Christendom.

What, then, is the original but ripe principle which this Institution embodies; the new yet popular policy it inaugurates? Let us not, by confounding it with other good things of similar aspect, diminish the distinctness by magnifying the size of our idea, or by seizing claims on the pre-occupied grounds of other great and kindred interests and policies, forsake the impregnable fortress of its own limited but independent claims to originality. Interest in the intemperate, thank God, it did not remain for us to arouse. The evil of drunkenness, the perils attending the use

of alcoholic stimulants, have awakened the conscience, alarmed the fears, animated the moral efforts, engaged the devoted and continuous labors of our whole people for a quarter of a century.

Our country, for thirty years past, has been giving, in almost every possible form, the liveliest testimonies to its sense of the vast extent, the terrible ravages, the social and civil calamities, the moral and spiritual evils, of Intemperance. By legislative enactments and popular associations, through political parties and philanthropic appeals, by a machinery of inconceivable magnitude, universality, activity, and zeal—by the erection of what may be considered almost a new social code—by the banding together of the clergy of the country as one man in proclamation, denunciation, and warning of the evil—by private pledges and by Maine Law agitation, the people of this country, in its whole moral and religious portion—the people of this State, in its weighty and dignified majority—have given emphatic, continuous, united testimony, in forms that can never again be equaled, because never again required let us hope, to the public sense of the Evils of Intemperance.

The temperance associations, of every name and order, may be considered as having left nothing to be done, in the way of public expression, respecting the sway and the malignity of the vice of drunkenness. This institution assumes the existence of this evil, and takes for granted that all are agreed (whatever their dalliance with it may be), in acknowledging its extent and enormity. While deploring their inadequacy, it recognizes the vast importance, and blesses the pre-

cious influence of all the means employed in preventing, suppressing, and extinguishing it. It does not claim to be able to take the place of any of these preventive or curative processes; it has no discouragement for them, no jealousy, no rivalry with them; on the contrary, nothing but the warmest encouragement, the heartiest sympathy, the liveliest and most friendly emulation.

But—and herein is its peculiarity—it declares it to be the opinion of the thoughtful, observing, and philanthropic men of the State, that a very important percentage of the intemperance of the world, the country, and the State, is beyond the reach of any or all the means now employed to prevent, remedy, or restrain it; that it owes its existence to constitutional causes, is perpetuated by morbid necessities, and propagated by physiological laws which are wholly beyond the reach of moral suasion, political restraint, or private control; in short, that inebriety, to an extent sufficient to create an unspeakable sum of personal and domestic misery, of social injury, and public crime, is a disease either produced by intemperance, and then perpetuating it, or producing intemperance, and then continuing it—a *disease* which requires in the name of public policy, and demands in the name of Christian charity, medical treatment, and a hospital—a disease so peculiar, obstinate, and distinct, so common, deplorable, and injurious, that it demands a hospital *exclusively devoted* to its observation, control, and treatment. Medical treatment—medical treatment in a hospital—medical treatment in a hospital exclusively

devoted to it—are the new features in the policy initiated so auspiciously to-day.

To clear up the grounds of this policy, the friends of this movement wish to draw, from this time forth, a bold and challenging line of division, where none has yet been made, between the *intemperate* and the *inebriate*—between *intemperance* as a moral, and *inebriety* as a corporal disease; between intemperance—a condition of body and mind resulting from excess in the indulgence of natural appetites, the abuse of festive habits, recklessness of principle, the love of evil company, fondness for pleasure and excitement, and impatience of trouble, care, and sorrow—the ordinary and prevailing intemperance of society—intemperance, the exceptional, occasional, or frequent vice of those still held responsible for their conduct, capable of self-control, open to argument, to motives, and to reform—between *intemperance* thus known and described, and *inebriety*—intemperance still, but now a disease, original or superinduced, caused by or causing drunkenness—a disease native to the constitution, or created within it by abuse—a disease, because an organic or functional derangement of the system, which bears drunkenness as its necessary flower, as naturally as the ivy root bears poisonous leaves.

All the intemperance which arises from disease, they propose, for convenience of moral nomenclature, to name *Inebriety*. And inebriety thus pronounced a disease, they propose uniformly to treat as a disease, in an Asylum. The merely intemperate, they pitifully and sadly leave in all the vast and wretched company they constitute. to the watch and care of the moralists,

to the ordinary civil and moral police of society, to the guardianship of parents, the warnings of religious guides, the efforts of the temperance associations, and all the various alliances for their rescue from the power of temptation, and from the fate predicted and procured by their reckless ways, and thoughtless minds, and callous hearts. They know the inadequacy of these defences and protections; but they know the insufficiency of all efforts wholly to control a vice whose roots are so deeply planted in the moral infirmities, the social ignorance, the imperfect moral and spiritual condition of our race—a vice which civilization, by developing means and opportunities for its indulgence faster than it develops moral apparatus for its control, makes the chief source of the crimes of society, without allowing us to hope, for a long time to come, for anything more than a steady but slow decline in its sway. But *inebriety*, wholly inaccessible to the influences which warn, or protect, or save intemperance—inebriety, a disease, not of the will, or the heart, or the conscience, but of the stomach, the brain, and the intestines—a physical, not a moral disease—they propose to take out of the hands of the teachers, the moralists, and the law, and put into the hands of the doctors—of doctors specially trained to treat it, and with special means and opportunities of treating it—chief of which is the power to restrain and to confine it, for such a term as its due treatment may require.

I am perfectly aware of the natural objections to this course, which, at first thought, will arise in most minds; especially of the practical difficulties likely to

be suggested in respect to the classification I have offered. It may—it will be said, that intemperance is, in *all* cases, *partly* a habit and *partly* a disease—that, however originated, it tends in all cases to become a disease—and that physical and bodily diseases caused by voluntary excesses, must be cured by voluntary self-denials; that to allege that intemperance is a necessity of some bodily organizations—or that it is so often the result of automatic causes as to deserve and require to be taken out of the category of immoralities and placed among those of misfortunes—is to weaken the sense of personal responsibility in those liable to become its victims, and thus to take away what must ever be the grand check to its spread.

I freely acknowledge the force of these objections; none can have felt them more than the originators of this Institution. It is because the evils the Inebriate Asylum cures are infinitely greater than the evils it may be thought to encourage; it is in spite of its possible disadvantages, that the community have demanded it. We acknowledge the great practical difficulty of making the fundamental classification just insisted on; but the *difficult*, happily, is not the *impossible*, and we are not to be daunted by difficulties, or we should have nothing to do with any noble and heroic undertaking.

All the objections ever brought against this institution may be confessed in all their force, without materially weakening the argument for an Inebriate Asylum. Thus, it is true, that intemperance *is* both a moral and a corporal disease, in most cases. There are probably few cases in which it is wholly moral, or in

which it is wholly corporal. What we need to maintain is only this: That, allowing it to be more moral than corporal, in the majority of cases, it is more corporal than moral in the rest; and that, when and as long as the moral continues the exciting and perpetuating cause, it is to be treated morally; when and as long as the corporal continues the exciting and perpetuating cause, it is to be treated corporally. As a moral disease, it will have also corporal symptoms and effects, requiring, and within the reach of, ordinary medical treatment and advice. But it must be then chiefly attacked at its moral root, with moral influences, which do not preclude medical treatment. As a corporal disease, it will have also moral symptoms and effects, requiring moral treatment, within the reach and application of its medical supervisors; but it must be chiefly attacked at its corporal root, with corporal methods and influences, which do not preclude moral treatment. If it be answered that intemperance is as much one as the other, in many cases, let it be confessed that these cases may be indifferently treated with either method. If it be added that complexity and equivocation involve the cases of thousands of other intemperate persons, we shall still have enough cases left, of the plain, unmistakable victims of hereditary and constitutional intemperance—enough, which years have proved to be utterly beyond any moral help, to make an asylum an indispensable and most merciful provision, whether of the State, or of private benevolence.

And now as to the moral effect of conceding that drunkenness often originates in necessary and self-acting

causes—a concession from which much social injury is predicted—I remark that it can never weaken the sense of moral responsibility, anywhere, privately or publicly, to acknowledge anything that is true; and that there is not the least reason to fear, that to make provision for the rescue of the miserable victims of an hereditary or abnormal appetite for drink, will diminish in the least, in those conscious of the power and obligations of self-control, the disposition or the conscience to exercise them.

We might as well expect public schools for the indigent, to weaken the standard of private education among the wealthy; or asylums for the deaf and blind, to make the possessors of perfect eyes and ears careless of their safety, and indifferent to their preservation; or humanity towards the aged and the suffering, to promote idleness and improvidence among the young and the healthy; or forcible restraint for the violent, to destroy habits of self-control among the peaceable, as to imagine that asylums for inebriates will promote and increase drunkenness. Hospitals do not tempt men to break their limbs, for the sake of having them set without cost; nor jails, to surrender their liberty, that they may enjoy their shelter at public expense; nor doctors, to tamper with health, for the sake of being skillfully cured; nor will the confinement, the medical treatment, the labor, the restraints of this Asylum, add one attraction to the cup, nor subtract one fibre from the conscience.

We have, indeed, never a right to ask the blasphemous question, what the effect upon society is to be, of humane and just measures. We may trust that the

effect of such measures will be good, and only good, from the very nature of things. Is there a class of inebriates—that is, of inborn drunkards, or of persons with such morbid proclivities to drink, as to be incapable of self-control in their present state? this is our only question! If there be, they are entitled to treatment neither as criminals, nor as sinners, but as sick and unfortunate persons; and society, morality, temperance, can derive nothing but advantage from treating them with common sense, justice, humanity, and skill.

But our case is much stronger than this. It is not necessary to prove that the subjects of this Institution are innocent and merely unfortunate persons, to justify, on moral grounds, its establishment. Indeed, if I rightly apprehend the underlying sentiments which support this enterprise, it will be found that an important change in the whole feeling of the responsible classes of society, in respect to the treatment of the weak and erring, the vicious and guilty, is here expressed and emphasized—a change of sentiment, liable to misconstruction and abuse, but yet necessary, inevitable, and, with its proper discriminations, beneficent and thoroughly Christian—a progress in the only direction that promises light and peace. Pity and protection, not only for the unfortunate, but also for the guilty, is the ever-growing policy, the ever-justified experience of modern philanthropy. And this occasion provides an opportunity, and imperatively calls for a brief but brave discussion of the radical principle of this policy, whose justification and discrimination involve the most important and serious interests of social science.

There is, then, I repeat, a broad and general policy set forth and blazoned by the establishment of the Inebriate Asylum; and that policy is pity and protection not only for the unfortunate, but for the guilty. Every observing man must notice the great change going on in the public mind, quietly and slowly, but steadily and with no doubtful result, in regard to the treatment of vice and crime. The old rule of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, the only rule upon which criminal law in the ruder states of society could be administered, and which has been the basis of penal jurisdiction for ages, has in the light of the Gospel and of a more developed social experience, gradually fallen into extensive suspicion as a principle, and undergone very serious modifications as a practice. The influence of external circumstances in the formation of character and habits; the effect of blood, birth, organization, temperament, early example, local influence, public opinion, national customs, in determining individual fortunes and conduct; the great natural inequalities among men in respect of intellectual and moral powers and sensibilities, the force of their passions, their faculties of self-control and self-protection—these have gradually forced themselves as facts upon the notice of all students of Social Laws, in a way to modify greatly the simple conclusion that man being an accountable and responsible being, is to be held strictly accountable by his *brother*, as well as by his Maker, for all his actions; and that to stand in any way between him and the consequences of his follies, vices, and crimes, is to weaken the natural principle of retribution, and to diminish the chances of his awaken-

ing and recovery under the influence of his sufferings. It may seem strange that we should have been so long coming to a conclusion, which is almost self-evident, and that we should hesitate and tremble at acknowledging it, even when we feel its truth. But it is an honorable testimony to man's consciousness of moral weakness, and to the strength of his moral aspiration, that in the absence of a discriminating moral philosophy he takes part against himself, when he apprehends that his will may succumb before his circumstances, and charges himself with a responsibility that is infinite, that he may escape a fatalism that would place him among the brutes. Yet it is not necessary in the present state of moral development and mental philosophy, to rush into one extreme, to avoid another; to deny the force of circumstances, that we may magnify the force of will; to refuse pity, lest we should weaken self-respect; and belie mercy, for fear of discrediting justice. Indeed, this stern legality is Jewish and Heathen, not Christian. All the warrant we need for the changed sentiment and policy of modern Christendom towards its vicious and criminal classes, ought to be found in the Gospel itself—the inauguration of the truth that mercy is better than justice, or, as I believe, we shall one day see our way to phrase it, *that mercy is an exacter justice*. Our blessed religion teaches us that God knew how to make it safe to take men from under the law and put them under a dispensation of grace and pardon, and that what he commenced in his Son he intended we should complete in our whole Christian civilization. To treat men as sinners, and still as unfortunate and pitiable in proportion to their

sins; to acknowledge their guilt, and yet make that very guilt a new reason for saving them from themselves and their otherwise inevitable fate—this is the example we have in our holy faith, and it is the light of all the progress and all the success society has ever had in the recovery of the erring and the lost. Let us leave it to the Jews to uphold the *lex talionis*; to the heathen to maintain the pitiless creed of a punitive system, which does not even seek the recovery of the offender, but only the satisfaction of justice. Christians recognize the good of the sinner, his restoration and recovery, as the final end of all retributive consequences, whether in the divine or in human governments, and they will never believe that what is for the real good of the sinner, can be for the disadvantage of society or the peril of Justice. Those consequences of folly and vice and crime which harden, degrade, stupefy, and unhumanize their subjects, however spontaneous and natural their operation may be, and however punitive and retributory their essence, ought never to be regarded as consequences fit to be left to their own working. For they obliterate the moral and intellectual nature of man, and rapidly take their victims out of the sphere of the moral universe; they disqualify their subjects for even recognizing their own punishment, by annihilating all sensibility to shame and all taste for virtue. Nor is there anything in the example of vice or crime, abandoned to itself, or vindictively treated, which educates the moral sense of the community, or deters from a similar career; for the sight of ferocious, coarse, and degraded humanity, however produced, is uniformly found to create a

vindictive disgust, to lower the self-respect of those who contemplate it, and to tend to reduce to its own brutish level all who come in contact with it. The keepers of our prisons, in former times—I hope not in these latter ones—might serve to illustrate the truth of this assertion.

One of the chief supports of the vindictive and *laissez-faire* policy, in regard to the treatment of the vicious, rests upon what I wish might be called only a popular, but is, I fear, also a scholastic and theoretical mistake—partaken of by the very leaders of society, and, perhaps, by none more than by the more liberal sects, and the more intelligent minds—a mistake concerning the order in the development of human faculties, and particularly of the moral faculty. The mistake is two-fold: 1st, the conscience is assumed to be strongest at its very birth—an error due to the observed sensibility of that faculty at its origin—like an infant's eye, whose very tenderness to light comes not of its strength, but its weakness; and 2d, the moral faculty, of all the faculties, is supposed to be least in need of experience, training, and growth. It will readily be seen how such an error would affect our notions of discipline and education; how it would set us upon a system of guarding, instead of cultivating the conscience; how it would influence the severity of our judgments, and favor a retributive, rather than a protecting, a punitive, rather than an educational system, in the treatment of youthful folly and vice.

Now, the truth is, man's conscience follows the rule of all his other faculties; is weakest in infancy; other things being equal, grows with his growth, and strength-

ens with his strength. Moreover, it is just as dependent as his affections and his mind, upon education and training. What are the instinctive affections, in reliability, compared with the cultivated affections? What the natural conscience, to the disciplined one? There is no faculty in man that needs training more than his moral faculty; none surer to go out, if left to itself; none, indeed, which rewards care and attention like it, or which is capable of being reared into so powerful and victorious an attribute. Men are, therefore, to be regarded as moral beings in the providential process of manufacture, rather than as moral beings in a finished state, and on trial. It is not to try, but to develope, and train, and strengthen this wonderful and precious talent of the soul, along with our other powers, that God has put us in this world. If, then, we imagine that the moral faculty, with its sense of right and wrong, its feeling of the authority of right, and the rebellion of wrong, its fore-felt rewards of virtue, its foreboded penalties of vice, is so powerfully and perfectly lodged in human beings at their birth, that they may be, and ought to be, left to experience its fruits without interposition, and that all the personal, and social, and eternal consequences that flow from its abuse, are legitimate, just, politic for society, favorable to God's truth, and pleasing to his heart, we imagine what is the very opposite of the truth, and what must neutralize or pervert all our efforts at a Christian civilization. The moral qualities, the sense and the practice of justice, the feeling and the obligation of right, the beauty and attractions of virtue, are to be regarded as the fruits, rather than the

seeds of civilization; as the effects, rather than the causes of social existence; as the ends, rather than the beginnings of humanity. It is because of the precious and glorious *capacity* of *becoming* moral, civilized, and truly human creatures, rather than on account of any actual worth, or goodness, or power of conscience in human nature at its start, that we reverence and value human beings, in their original, or undeveloped state. Man is an educable, a civilizable, a moralizable, a Christianizable being, and we are compelled by prudence, and experience, and wisdom, to depend far more on what, through our social system, and civilizing and Christian influences, we are able to make him, than on what he tends to become when left to himself.

In the light of this undeniable, practical truth, it must appear clear that social improvement is an experimental interest; and that the science of dealing with men for their own best good and happiness, is a science of experience, which must not be sacrificed to abstract or ideal principles—call them by what sacred name we will. It will not do for us to get up a metaphysical theory of morals, the centre of which is the idea of merit, or desert, and sacrifice upon it the practical prospects of our fellow-creatures. Show me how men can be made happier and better, in the highest meaning of those words; and if it is upon principles hitherto deemed false, I will pronounce them true. If mercy has more power to save, by softening and subduing, than justice has, by warning and punishing, then mercy is a better and more useful principle than justice. If interposition between vice, and the consequences of vice; crime, and the consequences of crime;

folly, and the consequences of folly, prove, when judiciously made, a more successful means of rescuing men from moral ruin and social wreck, than the old plan of allowing these painful and debasing consequences to have their natural way—then, practical wisdom will not permit theoretical scruples to set aside such substantial benefits. And that such is the case, is the testimony of all carefully considered experience. The whole tendency of modern inquiry and effort, in the treatment of folly, vice, and crime, is to substitute kindness for severity, help for restraint, education for police, light for alarm, protection for punishment. The growing mildness of the prison code, like that of medical practice itself, shows us how little good we are to expect from vindictive or exemplary punishments, how little from severe and heroic practice.

The mistake which the advocates of the gentle protective policy—illustrated in the principle of this institution—make in the controversy with the timid and anxious supporters of the old system of strict retribution, exemplary punishment, and wholesome fear, is this. Through want of power to explain what they really feel, they allow themselves to seem less interested than their opponents in the support, and authority, and sacredness of the moral law, with all its infinitely important distinctions and consequences. Through inability to make themselves understood otherwise, they allow themselves to seem the friends of a material and fatalistic philosophy, which attributes more power to circumstances and organization, than to mind and soul. But both these not unnatural inferences are really baseless. It is for the sake of, and because of,

the preciousness of man's moral nature, that, when we see it too weak for his physical nature, on account of the more rapid growth of the physical than of the moral in the infancy of being, we refuse to treat him as a wholly responsible being and so leave him to ruin; that we hurry to treat him as sick and morally dead, that afterwards we may, at our leisure, really make him a responsible being, and so save him to the moral universe. And is it a fatalistic and material philosophy which drives the friends of man's soul—themselves, through God's grace, in possession of enlightened minds, disciplined wills, and vigorous consciences, thanks, it may be, to their own wise parents and Christian teachers—to come to the rescue of their less fortunate brothers, liable to be the victims of their own unpropitious organizations and conditions, and to interpose between them and otherwise inevitable ruin? Instead of materialism and fatalism, here is free-will and spiritual power in the wise, triumphing over circumstances and the drift of events in the foolish. True, this doctrine does not claim that the will is perfectly free in each and every man—that the soul is, at the start, and in every case, superior to the body. But it does assert that, characteristically, by intention and by destiny, the will is free, and the soul eminent over the body, as over all things seen and tangible. It denies, it must be confessed, that modern doctrine of absolute and equal powers and capacities in all men—that irrational theory of individuality, which disintegrates the race into its component parts, and makes each atom of humanity complete in itself, the centre of the universe, capable at once of all things which

any other is capable of, independent of all others in its education and its fate. Such a doctrine is as false to fact as it is arrogant, indocile, and unsocializing in sentiment. There is no truth to history, to feeling, to Christianity, or to staring modern experience, in it. The real truth teaches us, with the New Testament, that we are members one of another; that the human race is one body, in which each individual has his part and place; that this body has eyes and ears, but also hands and feet; that parts of it represent the intellectual, parts the moral, parts the conscious, and parts the unconscious elements in its whole; that its judgment or wisdom is not equally subdivided and scattered among the several parts, but dwells at different times in different portions that represent the wisdom and judgment of the whole—now in races, now in nations, now in classes, sometimes in illustrious individuals—but that it dwells in these for the use, guidance, protection, and benefit of the whole; and that it is accordingly the duty of the enlightened, civilized, self-disciplined and self-controlled portions of the race—the moral and spiritual, the wise and prudent portions—to guide, protect, bless, and save the residue. When, therefore, in their efforts to do so, the free-will of the indolent and careless seems not to be respected, it is only because the free-will of the God-erected representatives of humanity, which is more entitled to respect, claims its rights, and asserts itself for the good of those it schools and controls. When men, too ignorant or feeble, too unfortunate and ill-organized to keep their souls erect above their bodies, are seized by the strong in intellect, in heart, and in will (the morally prosper-

ous and good), and lifted in spite of themselves on to the plane of obedience, and decency, and comfort—though they seem to be treated as machines, and not to have their fate in their own hands, it is only because in these saviors of their own race God is vindicating the power of mind over matter, of will over circumstances, of spirit over body, in a way that redounds to the glory of our common nature, while it is destined to end in lifting all men unto the possession of that free-will and self-protection which is their true humanity.

The policy of this Asylum is, then, a Christian, a wise, a holy policy. It will be universally adopted. It is not only the inebriate who is destined to be restrained of his liberty and treated with medical and psychological skill, but the criminal, and the vicious of every grade, the moment their liberty becomes dangerous to society. And the terms of their confinement are ultimately—I speak with absolute conviction—to be limited only by the date of their cure; life-long for the incorrigible and incurable in all cases, brief as possible for all who yield readily to a humane treatment. Society gains nothing by holding for an hour any man a prisoner who is fit to be at large. Liberty and human rights gain nothing by allowing any man to be at large for a moment, who is destroying himself and his family and neighbors. All that we need is, what we are fast gaining, a possession of the tests and guages of this fitness or unfitness; and then, precisely what we do with the idiot, the insane, and the thief, we shall do with the inebriate, the murderer, and the weak and wicked of all classes.

To the courageous and humane hearts and minds, that leave the easy and beaten paths of indolent custom, to explore new ways of usefulness, to open new tracks of safety, to pioneer Humanity's questful progress, we owe peculiar honor; and if they clothe themselves in the modest garb of unassuming worth, we owe it all the more. I rejoice, then, to be able to lift to the pedestal of this majestic occasion, and there to place before the eyes of the friends of the unfortunate, of the inebriate, and his wretched victims only less miserable than himself, the name of the first man who proposed, and advocated, and successfully carried into effect, the project of an Inebriate Asylum—Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER. May God reward his faith and his works!

One great event in physical science has illustrated the year in which we live, forever memorable in the minds of men, as the year in which time, and space, and sea, yielded to man's longing for union with his race. Another, not now so evident or so universally appreciated, has already occurred in the starting of a policy, the beginning of a class of benevolent institutions, destined to run round the world, and to unite all men in gratitude. As I looked last night at the flaming comet in our sky, and saw it inclined and plumed like a pen, fit and ready for the Almighty's own hand, I could not but feel, that if he should seize it and inscribe with its diamond-point upon the sky the chief event of this *Annus Mirabilis*, it would be the foundation of a policy and a usage such as that we now celebrate—of an Institution, the first of its kind

in the world, which proclaims that Mercy is better than Justice ; nay, that Mercy is an exacter Justice.

Dr. BELLOWS was listened to with the utmost attention, and at the close warmly applauded.

Mr. BUTLER, the President, then said :

It is proper I should mention to the audience that in addition to the able speakers who have instructed and delighted us by their elaborate, luminous, and philosophical discourses on this occasion, we hoped to have the presence, and the powerful aid of the Rev. Dr. BETHUNE, of Brooklyn, and the Hon. GEORGE W. CLINTON, of Buffalo. Each of these gentlemen takes a deep interest in this Association, and had it not been for unavoidable detention, we would have been favored with their presence. There is a resident of this village who has taken a great interest in this enterprise ; who has held a high place in the government of this State, and a still higher place in the government of this Union, who, I am sure, will be listened to with great pleasure, not only by his own fellow-citizens of the town of Binghamton, but also by the men who have come from distant places—some from the very ends of the State. Therefore, I introduce to you my friend, the Hon. DANIEL S. DICKINSON. [Loud applause.]

Mr. DICKINSON, on coming forward, was greeted with a storm of applause.

REMARKS BY HON. DANIEL S. DICKINSON

MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOW-CITIZENS: Upon an introduction so kind and generous, it gives me great pleasure to speak, that I may welcome with my whole heart this vast audience, and the numerous distinguished gentlemen who, having contributed of their influence and substance for the inauguration of this institution, sacred to the cause of philanthropy, have come hither, to participate in laying, with becoming ceremonies, its moral and material foundation. Time will not permit me to speak of the benefits and blessings which are destined to flow from the Inebriate Asylum for the frail, erring children of humanity—nor to tell of the pure, gushing life-streams this great fountain of good is to send forth, to refresh and fertilize the bleak and barren waste of intemperance—nor to point to the inebriated maniac, who shall, by its Heaven-born influences, be clothed again in his right mind—nor of the prodigal son, who, covered with vice and rags, shall arise and go to his father.

If the great army of intemperance—those who are dying under the influence of this remorseless destroyer—those who are becoming lawless outcasts—those who commit, or associate with crime, by reason of intoxicating draughts—should march together in solid column, the earth itself would heave, and throb, and tremble under their tread, as though moved by the convulsions of a volcano! To arrest the progress of this

terrible element, Philanthropy, in her ceaseless effort for fallen man, erects this institution. How many fathers are looking on with a parent's painfully-anxious solicitude? How many wives and mothers will reverently kneel and pray to the Father in Heaven that this effort may be blest? Oh! how many children will raise their little hands in prayer for its success, that the monster—intemperance—shall never come hither to torment them before their time, and curse with blood and tears the lustre of their birth-star?

But I pause, for I am forgetting that among all the distinguished here, there is one pre-eminent upon this platform—one who came here upon another errand, but has kindly consented to honor us by his presence—one who is known wherever the philanthropic heart has throbbed, wherever learning, eloquence, or statesmanship are known, or civilization has traveled; and I shall best serve you by closing my remarks, and by introducing to you EDWARD EVERETT.

The Hon. EDWARD EVERETT now rose, and was greeted with unrestrained manifestations of esteem.

REMARKS BY HON. EDWARD EVERETT.

MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOW-CITIZENS: If my worthy friend and hospitable host, who has just taken his seat, were capable of doing anything unkind or unfair, I should think he had been guilty of it on the present occasion, in requiring me to place my poor, unpremeditated remarks in direct contrast with the mature thoughts, and finished discussions, and eloquent sentiments, which have held your attention, instructed your minds, and warmed your hearts, on this interesting occasion. In fact, Mr. President, I almost think that, under the circumstances of the case, I am hardly amenable to your jurisdiction [smiles], that I ought to be looked upon, not as a volunteer, but as one impressed into the service. It reminds me, Sir, of the pretensions of a foreign power (if you will not think me going out of the way for a comparison), in years long past, when the whole civilized world, except our own country, was involved in war, claiming the rights of belligerents, and we the only neutral. That foreign power, Sir, didn't claim the right to enter our neutral vessels for the sake of impressing our seamen into their service, but if, in the exercise of the belligerents' right of searching neutrals for contraband goods, they encountered the king's subjects, or those they chose to consider such, they claimed the right to impress them. Now, Sir, I have come here, as you know, on a very different errand; you have caught me on the platform,

and you have impressed me. [Laughter.] It was, I own, with some little misgiving that I found myself—retired as I am entirely from public life—stepping upon the Binghamton platform. [Laughter, and loud applause.] But, inasmuch, Sir, as I saw my friend, who has so kindly presented me to this audience, examining the platform rather carefully, looking at it from above and beneath, to see if it were safe, I thought if he might venture, I might; and that a platform which could hold him and you, Sir, and Doctor FRANCIS, and Doctor BELLOWES, Mr. STREET, and all whom I see around me, of all sects and all parties, though not very compact in its appearance, was strong enough to hold me. [Renewed laughter and applause.]

Sir, to speak more seriously, I should be ashamed of myself if it required any premeditation, any forethought, to pour out the simple and honest effusions of the heart on an occasion so interesting as this. A good occasion, Sir; a good day, notwithstanding its commencement. I have heard from one friend and another this morning—kind enough to pay his respects to me, knowing on what errand I had come—that he was sorry that we hadn't a good day. It was, it is true, raining in the morning. But it is a good day, notwithstanding the rain. The weather is good; all weather is good; sunshine is good; rain is good. Not good weather, Sir? Ask the farmer, into whose grains and roots there yet remains some of its moisture, to be driven by to-morrow's sun. Ask the boatman, who is waiting for his raft to go over the rapids. Ask the dairy-man and grazier, if the rain, even at this season, is not good. Ask the lover of nature, if it is not good

weather when it rains. Sir, one may see in Europe artificial water-works, cascades constructed by the skill of man at enormous expense—at Chatsworth, at Hesse-Cassel, and the remains of the magnificent water-works at Marley, where Louis XIV. lavished uncounted millions of gold, and thus, according to some writers, commenced those dilapidations of the treasury which brought on the French Revolution. The traveler thinks it a great thing to see these artificial water-works, where a little water is pumped up by creaking machinery, or a panting steam-engine, to be scattered in frothy spray; and do we talk of its not being a good day, when God's great engine is exhibiting to us His imperial water-works, sending up the mists and vapors to the clouds, to be rained down again in comfort and beauty and plenty upon grateful and thirsty man? Sir, as a mere gratification of the taste, I know nothing in nature more sublime, more beautiful, than these genial rains, descending in abundance and salubrity from the skies. [Applause.]

It is a good day, Sir, be the weather what it may, for it is consecrated to a good work. You are taking the first step in a great enterprise of mercy and humanity. Sir, the duty which society owes to the interesting class for whose relief this institution is founded, is one of the most important and the most delicate which it has to perform. If there were any doubts before, they would have been removed by the eloquent discourses we have just heard. What society ought to do, what it can attempt hopefully, is a question not yet perhaps satisfactorily solved, as far as concerns the great authoritative expression of the will

and the power of the community in the form of law. How far, and in what way, the law of the land can be applied to remedy and mitigate the tremendous evils of intemperance, is a question not yet perhaps satisfactorily solved.

But we have come here, Sir, brought together by no law that creates any divisions of opinion—the law of love—where we are all magistrates and all subjects. In obedience to the dictates of that law, Sir, we have come together. You have come together, friends and fellow-citizens, to take the first step in founding an institution which is to furnish a home for the homeless, a refuge from the world, that visits its own faults with such severity upon the frail and suffering of our race—a kindly refuge, where they will be received in the hour of their extremity, and welcomed with all the comforts which their condition admits and demands; and especially, Sir, where they will be removed from temptation.

Removed from temptation! Sir, during those interesting ceremonies which we have witnessed at the laying of the corner-stone, when the most sublime of petitions from the wisest and best of Masters was repeated by those hundreds and thousands that stood with uncovered heads to witness their performance, I was struck, with a force which I own I have never felt before, with the sequence of the ideas. “Lead us not into temptation”—that comes before deliverance, from evil. “Lead us not into temptation.” [Applause.] Sir, a great moral poet has said:

“Vice is a monster of such hideous mien,
That to be hated, needs but to be seen.”

That is the evil from which we pray to be delivered
It is the hideous monster,

“That to be hated, needs but to be seen.”

But it is not so with temptation. Temptation is not a hideous monster. It too often comes in a lovely form, clothed with grace and beauty, decked with garlands, speaking with a silver voice, and calling to us when we are off our guard. That is what we first need to pray to be protected from. Evil, that hideous monster: few persons who have enjoyed the ordinary advantages of an education in this part of the world, few persons that have anything that can be called a virtuous home, are in great danger of being led astray by this hideous monster, when it stands before them in all its native deformity. But who is safe from the Circean voice of Temptation?

Mr. President, the reverend and eloquent gentleman who preceded me, has said with great justice, that you were not only laying the foundation of an asylum for this State, but if it succeeds, you have laid this day a corner-stone for a similar asylum in every State of this Union, in every kingdom of Europe. [Applause.] Hasn't it been so with all great improvements that may be classed with this? Wasn't it so with prison discipline? There is not in all the civilized world, except Naples (if you include Naples in the civilized world), a place where the old abuses in prison discipline exist. The humane treatment is everywhere imitated and adopted. So it is, Sir, with asylums for the insane. The old system of coercion and cruelty is

done away with, not in New York, in Philadelphia, and in Boston alone, but throughout the civilized world.

So it will be, Sir, with the Asylum for the Inebriate. Let these first steps result successfully; let these walls go up; let the poor victims of inebriety be gathered there; let the kind treatment, medical counsel, and employment for the mind and for the time produce the effects, which I haven't the slightest doubt they will produce; and, as I have said before, as fast as they can be erected, you will have a similar institution in every civilized country in the world. Yes, Sir; bring these unhappy inebriates there, protect them from temptation, occupy their time, amuse their thoughts, surround them with rational pleasures; above all, Sir, let the delightful influences of the beautiful nature that here surrounds us have their due effect upon them; let them learn to worship the Common Father in this glorious temple, of which these surrounding hills are the pillars, and this glorious concave the vaulted arch—and believe me, many years will not pass away before it will appear that what you have just done for your own community, you have done for the civilized world. [Loud applause.]

CLOSING REMARKS.

BY HON. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

I WILL not detain the audience a moment, by attempting to give utterance to the obligations we are under to the most accomplished of American orators, for the speech just delivered, and though impressed into the service, he has shown himself a true man, and most nobly has he fought under the colors of humanity. I have to mention that many letters have been received from distinguished public men, the Governor of this State, the Mayor of the City of New York, and many others in high places. Also from distinguished physicians in our own State, and in other States; and I should particularly mention, letters from the Superintendents of most of the Asylums for the treatment of the Insane in the United States; that in all these letters, in various forms, their writers give utterance to strong expressions in respect to this new home of mercy; that most of them—that *all* of them, hail it as destined to open a new epoch in the history of benevolence; and those who are best qualified to judge, that is to say, superintendents of asylums for the insane, express universal and intense interest in our efforts.

Some say that they have thought for years that such an Asylum should be erected; and one expresses the opinion, as his enlightened judgment, that the *one*

whose foundation is laid here to-day, will be imitated in every other State of the American Union. Those letters can not now be read, but will be published in the pamphlet.

And now, after music by the band, the audience will be called to listen to the strains of a true poet, a native son of New York, who has consented to gratify us on the occasion by a poem. I shall have the honor at the proper moment, of introducing Mr. STREET, who will deliver that poem. Then the exercises of this interesting occasion will be brought to a close by the benediction being pronounced by the Rev. Mr. PRINCE, one of the founders of this association—one of the first trustees—though not now a member of the Board.

ALFRED B. STREET, Esq., of Albany, on being introduced to the audience, by the President, delivered the following Poem, which he composed for the occasion. It was listened to with great attention, and its author warmly applauded at the end.

P O E M .

BY ALFRED B. STREET, ESQ.

WHEN Sin made wreck of this enchanting earth,
 And all things evil ushered into birth,
 Divinest Pity, hastening from on high,
 Marking man's ruin with forgiving sigh,
 Bade seraph Charity, unwavering, stay
 To soothe his sorrow and to smooth his way.

And ever since has this sweet Spirit shed
 Celestial music from her heavenly tread;
 And her bright brow, illumed with lambent light,
 Changed into smiling day the darkest, stormiest night.

Of all the evils shadowing here below,
 Thy hand, Intemperance, works the direst woe!
 Could all the gathered tears attest thy might,
 Oh, what a sea would welter on the sight!
 Could all the moans be heard from thy career,
 What a wild sound would peal upon the ear!
 Could all thy victims march in dread array,
 Across the world would stretch their blackening way!
 Foe of the race, what horrors mark thy shrine!
 What fatal lures, what fearful victories thine!
 Thine, the poor drunkard, reveling in his shame;
 Thine, the young bride that bears his blighted name;

Thine, the lost child that sees the fingered scorn,
 And feels night's shadow mantling o'er its morn;
 Thine, the vast dead that passed without a sign;
 The darkened hosts of starry natures thine;
 Thine, the red arm that wields the murderer's knife,
 And thine the idiot's driveling death in life!
 From thee, the maniac's piercing shrieks ascend,
 The nerves frame spectres to the horrid end;
 From thee, fresh youth bows down his head to die,
 And age, even ere its time, yields up its trembling sigh.
 War! thy wild chariot rolls o'er piles of slain,
 Thou drenchest empires with thy crimson rain!
 Thy victims, Pestilence! uncounted fall,
 Till Heaven seems mantled with unpitying pall!
 Famine! thy gaunt, imploring arms are spread,
 Thy pale lips murmuring, "Give me, give me bread!"
 But veil your brows before the hideous glooms,
 Of that dread monarch over myriad tombs!
 Great God! Blest Guardian o'er this world of ours,
 Against Thy throne, this fiend, the mightiest, towers!
 For Thy weak race, he lies in sleepless wait;
 Body and soul, he sweeps them to their fate;
 When will Thy red avenging bolt be hurled
 To dash the demon from a woe-worn world?

Tempting the snares, his shining treachery spreads!
 Countless the pitfalls, in the path he treads!
 Song that should soar in purest heaven, alas!
 Wreathes its rich garlands round the glittering glass.
 In it the morning melts its pearly dew,
 To it the sunshine lends its ruby hue;

Rich through its depths imperial purples beam,
 Breaths of all flowers yield fragrance to its stream;
 Unclouded suns o'er smiling vineyards glow,
 And all to veil this monster working woe.
 In snaky glide it starts upon its way,
 Closer and closer, creeping on its prey;
 And when its charm the spell-bound victim holds,
 Then come its crushing anaconda folds.

Its lure first adds a brightness to the jest,
 To wit a sparkle, and to mirth a zest—
 A loftier wing to Fancy, as she soars,
 And even on Dullness, transient lustre pours;
 Oh, dire reverse! when bound in burning chains,
 Finds the prone will, that naught of strength remains!
 When in the gulf, red yawning at its feet,
 It knows the end it shudders wild to meet;
 Nearer and nearer, drifting all awreck,
 Drawn by a force it cannot, cannot check!
 But hail! all hail! When heaven seems wrapped in
 gloom,
 And Earth is scowling with the drunkard's doom,
 Hither, blest Charity's swift footsteps wend,
 To stand between the victim and his end;
 Hand-linked with knowledge, piercingly she sees
 Habit merged helpless into fierce disease;
 Disease, that grasps the frame, the mind, the heart,
 But which she baffles with creative art.
 Too long the world hath let the victim go,
 Staggering, unchecked, to his dark depth of woe,
 Murmuring, "In vain the drunkard's course to stay,
 The drunkard's doom must close the drunkard's way!"

"Back bend that way!" loud Charity proclaims,
 While high in air her torch of knowledge flames.
 "Back bend that way! the drunkard must not fall
 Unchecked; his doom is not beyond recall.
 Mine to unclasp the fetters, link by link,
 And lead the captive gently from the brink;
 Rebuild his shattered nature, and restore
 Free—with his head erect—the man A MAN once more.

Blest be that work! here let the fane arise
 In which shall dawn this heavenly enterprise!
 Here—where the landscape spreads its charms abroad,
 A peerless picture from the hand of God,
 Hill, meadow, vale, to cultivation won,
 And, in the midst, bright, leaf-bowered Binghamton;
 Where Susquehanna, radiant with his smiles,
 Crowned with his emerald diadem of isles,
 King of the realm! caressing and caressed,
 Clasps his sweet bride, Chenango, to his breast;
 A scene, whose soft and soothing sense shall find
 Way to the struggling, renovating mind;
 Let the fane rise, and may its power command
 A kindred host to shed their blessings o'er the land!

The Rev. N. A. PRINCE then pronounced the Benediction, and
 the audience dispersed.

A LETTER

OF THE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE

ASYLUM, TO HON. EDWIN D. MORGAN, GOVERNOR

ELECT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

LETTER.

HON. EDWIN D. MORGAN,

Governor Elect of the State of New York.

DEAR SIR: KNOWING the deep interest you take in all the great benevolent institutions of the day, and the importance you attach to the preservation of the health and morals of the people of our State, we are convinced that we shall have your entire influence, and hearty co-operation as a private citizen, and as the Governor of the State of New York, in advancing the interest, and in securing the desired appropriation from the State, to assist in founding the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

The Trustees, appointed by the Legislature of the State to locate and found this Institution, held their meeting in the City of New York, on the nineteenth day of May last, and unanimously accepted the large domain of 252 acres and 117 rods of land, donated by the liberal citizens of Binghamton.

The arduous and responsible duties devolving upon the Commissioners for locating the Asylum, have (we trust), been well and judiciously performed, and in every particular independent of all sectional prejudice, or individual preference. We have endeavored to keep constantly before our minds the great interests

of the Institution, and have decided the location upon the following important elements, viz.: Healthfulness, an abundant supply of pure water, accessibility from all parts of the State, and economy of support. The site which we have selected for the location of the Asylum is regarded by physicians, who are well acquainted with its surroundings, as one of the most healthy in the country. We find in the statistics of mortality, collected from the United States Census of 1850, that the County of Broome shows a smaller number of deaths, according to its population, than any other county in the State. The geological formation of the earth upon which the town of Binghamton is located, is peculiarly adapted for health. Its uneven surface and gravelly soil give a quick drainage to surface-water, and prevents stagnant pools and vegetable decay from accumulating their noxious vapors. Its altitude, of more than nine hundred feet above the ocean, gives the surrounding country a pure and exhilarating atmosphere, so important for a medical hospital.

The hills on the north afford an abundant supply of pure water, at an elevation of two hundred and fifty feet above the site. With such hydraulic power, we are enabled to supply every part of the building with water; and in case of fire, throw it over every part of the edifice without artificial force.

This site has the advantage of being *central*, as more than three-quarters of the population of the State can reach it in a ten-hour's ride. At the same time, it is a retired spot, entirely separated from the injurious influences of a large city, and is surrounded by a moral

and highly intelligent community. Another argument in favor of this location is economy. The article of fuel, and almost every article of food (which items make so large a proportion of the expenses of a public institution), can be purchased at Binghamton much cheaper than in most other parts of the State. The New York and Erie Railroad Company have been to the expense of putting in a switch from their main track at the Asylum ground, thereby saving us much of the expense of cartage on materials used in constructing the edifice, as well as several hundreds of dollars annually in the transportation of fuel and stores for the Asylum. In short, this location combines all the elements *essential* to make the Asylum the most healthy, the most useful, and the most attractive institution in our country.

The particular site upon which the hospital is being erected, is a plateau two hundred and forty-three feet above the river, affording an extended view of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers and their beautiful valleys for twenty miles.

The farm is of a good soil, and well adapted to all agricultural and horticultural purposes. The land immediately around the site gradually slopes in every direction, giving a complete drainage from the building, and a fine grade to the grounds about the institution.

The design of the edifice has been matured by visiting the principal hospitals of Europe, as well as the leading institutions of our own country. We have endeavored to plan the building with all the modern improvements which experience has taught and science

suggested. The materials to be used in the construction of the walls of the building are brick and stone. The style of building is the castellated Gothic, three hundred and sixty-five feet in length; width of transept, sixty-two feet; width of wings, fifty-one feet; three stories in height, besides the basement, with six projections, eight towers, and eight buttresses. The projections are intended for staircases and store-rooms, the towers for bath-rooms, and the buttresses for closets; thereby making every part of the building useful as well as ornamental, without a foot of waste room, or an additional dollar of expense. The transept will be devoted to the offices of the Institution, the library, and the chapel. The Asylum will have a capacity for three hundred patients, and will be divided into eight wards; each ward containing twenty-three rooms, which vary in size from 12 by 18 to 18 by 24 feet, affording an ample classification for patients.

If the day should ever arrive, when this Institution should be no longer needed for the restraint and medical treatment of the inebriate, then the State need to expend only about a thousand dollars to make the building one of the most complete insane hospitals in this country.

The contract for excavating the cellar was awarded on the 17th day of June last, and that for building the basement walls on the 31st day of August following. The corner-stone of the Asylum was laid on the 24th day of September. Since that time the work on the edifice has been pushed forward with great vigor and energy, as already more than three hundred thousand bricks, and fifty thousand cubic feet of stone

have been laid in the walls. The work on the building is now suspended on account of the frost, but will be resumed early in the Spring.

It would not be saying too much if we should state, that there has never been, in this country, a ceremony of laying a corner-stone of an asylum, which attracted so many leading men of all professions, as the laying of the corner-stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum. Citizens of distinction from all parts of the country honored the occasion with their presence. They came, not merely as idle spectators, but they came to unite their sympathies and their interests with those of the citizens of New York, in the important ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the first Inebriate Asylum in the world.

Besides the Hon. Benjamin F. Butler, John W. Francis, M. D., LL. D., Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D.D., Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, Hon. Edward Everett, M. W. John L. Lewis, Jr., Alfred B. Street, Esq., the distinguished speakers who interested and instructed the thousands who were present on the occasion, we were honored by the presence of a prominent citizen of Maryland, who is known throughout the country as the accomplished physician and the able Superintendent of the "Maryland Insane Asylum," John Fonerden, of Baltimore.

Among the subscribers to the fund of the Inebriate Asylum, are the President of the United States, and his Cabinet; Lieut-General Winfield Scott, and General Wool; the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, & State Officers; Justices Nelson, McLean, Grier, Wayne, and ninety other judges. Ex-President Van Buren,

Ex-President Fillmore, Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, Hon. Preston King, Hon. Gerritt Smith, Hon. John Savage, and three hundred and eighty other lawyers. Eliphalet Nott, D. D., LL. D.; Edward Everett, LL. D.; Washington Irving, Esq., Charles King, LL. D.; Isaac Ferris, D. D., LL. D.; Martin B. Anderson, LL. D.; Right Rev. Bishop Potter, D. D.; Right Rev. Bishop Whitehouse, D. D.; Right Rev. Bishop Janes, D. D.; Rev. Thomas De Witt, D. D.; Rev. George W. Bethune, D. D.; Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D.; Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D. D.; Rev. George B. Cheever, D. D.; Rev. Henry Ward Beecher; Rev. William R. Williams, D. D.; Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D.; Rev. D. Kennedy, D. D.; Rev. J. S. P. Thompson, D. D.; Rev. William Shelton, D. D.; Rev. J. C. Lord, D. D.; Rev. J. M. Campbell, D. D.; Rev. Ray Palmer, D. D.; Rev. R. W. Condit, D. D.; Rev. C. Dewey, D. D.; Rev. W. C. Wisner, D. D., and four hundred other clergymen. Valentine Mott, John W. Francis, Alexander H. Stevens, Willard Parker, J. M. Carnochan, C. R. Gilman, B. Fordyce Barker, James R. Wood, Lewis A. Sayre, John J. Crane, Elisha Harris, John O'Reilly, R. H. Thompson, James H. Armsby, Thomas C. Brinsmade, John McCall, J. F. Trowbridge, Richard A. Varick, John P. Gray, E. M. Moore, James P. White, Frank Hamilton, and nine hundred other physicians. William C. Bryant, James Watson Webb, Gerard Hallock, Hon. H. J. Raymond, Hon. Erastus Brooks, Hon. Moses S. Beach, David M. Reese, M. D.; Edward H. Dixon, M. D.; Henry D. Bulkley, M. D.; Samuel S. Purple, M. D.; William W. Hall, M. D.; J. Hancock Douglass, M. D., and eighty other editors. James

Boorman, George Griswold, William B. Crosby, C. H. Russell, James Donaldson, Robert B. Minturn, John C. Green, John David Wolfe, Thomas Tileston, Henry Grinnell, Stewart Brown, Wilson G. Hunt, W. Butler Duncan, Jonathan Sturgess, M. M. Van Beuren, John Hecker, Erastus Corning, A. Champion, L. Wright, R. S. Burrows, L. A. Ward, H. White, G. B. Rich, Jesse Ketchum, and fifteen hundred other merchants.

The subscriptions to the fund of the Asylum (independent of the land donated by the citizens of Binghamton, worth twenty-five thousand dollars), amount to fifty thousand dollars; of which more than twenty-five per cent. is already paid in, and the remainder will be collected as soon as possible.

There are many good and benevolent men and women in our State, who will give largely and liberally to this Asylum, as soon as the State shall have stretched forth its powerful arm to aid in founding it. Many there are who will remember this institution in their last bequests. The late Hon. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, the first President of this Asylum, has left its first legacy. Our late worthy President fully realized its importance, and the interest he manifested in laboring in this great work, shows that it had his entire confidence and deepest sympathies.

Let the State appropriate a sufficient amount to assist to build this Asylum, and such other buildings as the institution shall require for the comfort and convenience of its patients, and we will agree never to apply to the State for any additional appropriation for its support. The workshops and the farm will give employment and support to the poor patients,

while the rich will pay for their treatment and support.

No compensation has been received or is expected by the Trustees, for their services rendered to the object. We have no *salaried* officers or agents of any description.

In this brief communication, it would be impossible to lay before you the full and minute morbid anatomy and pathology of inebriety; nor do we think it necessary to present a complete history of twelve years, spent in the investigation of this disease, to show the importance of an immediate action on the part of the State, in appropriating an amount sufficient to aid in founding the New York State Inebriate Asylum. Every means has been used on our part in this country, and in Europe, to make a thorough investigation of the physiological and pathological character of inebriety. We have studied its pathology from two hundred and ninety-eight subjects which we have carefully dissected, writing out the history of each case, with its morbid conditions, which history embraces more than seven hundred pages of manuscript. These dissections demonstrate that inebriety is a *disease*, *first* constitutional, and then hereditary in its character and tendencies, as much as any malady which man is heir to. Every physician knows that a predisposition to become affected by certain diseases (on the application of the exciting causes), does certainly exist in the human family, and particularly in the diseases of *inebriety*, *scrofula*, *gout*, and *mania*. In some instances, the predisposition is more strongly marked than in others. But where it is inert and

insufficient of itself to produce disease, it only requires the application of an exciting cause. This is the proper light in which we should regard hereditary predisposition to inebriety. It may pass over one generation, and appear in the next, so that the grandfather and grandson (the first and the third generation), may be inebriates, while the intervening link escapes. This phenomenon is noticed by every common observer.

Its hereditary character and result is shown by the mortality of children, born of inebriate mothers, in whom are found the same character of ulcerations of the stomach, liver, intestinal canal, with the indurated condition of the brain, as we find in chronic cases, produced by five or ten years of excess in the use of alcoholic stimulants. In a lecture delivered last Winter, at the Augusta City Hospital, by Professor L. A. DUGAS, M. D., upon the "Importance of Establishing Asylums for the Control and Medical Treatment of the Inebriate," he says, in speaking of the offspring of the inebriate, "That he does not hesitate to proclaim it as a law of almost universal application, that three successive generations of inebriates will leave no issue. The third generation may have children, but not one of these will be reared to manhood." Other distinguished physiologists entertain the same opinion.

We find that the number of deaths among children under ten years of age, is the greatest in those cities where alcoholic stimulants are used to excess, as the following tables (which we have collected with great

care) show. The deaths of children under ten in the city of New York for the year 1854, were as follows

1	Year Old and Under,	. . .	9,166
1	"	"	2 . . . 3,697
2	"	"	5 . . . 2,810
5	"	"	10 . . . 1,079
<hr/>			
Total,			16,752

The whole number of deaths of all ages for the same year in the city, was 28,568; making the ratio of deaths among children in the city of New York under ten, to the whole number, as 6 to 10; while in Paris the ratio is only 4 to 10; London, $6\frac{7}{10}$ to 10; Edinburgh, 7 to 10; Lyons, $3\frac{9}{10}$ to 10; Copenhagen, $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 10; Geneva, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 10.

Another peculiar feature noticed in this disease, is that morbid condition of the stomach, which is transmitted from one generation to another, lying dormant in the constitution, until the application of the exciting cause develops the morbid appetite, and places the victim of this *inherited* malady as much beyond his own control (after partaking of the first glass of spirituous liquor), as if he had drank to excess for years. Such cases were formerly looked upon as unaccountable phenomena, but are now regarded by physicians, thoroughly acquainted with the disease, as distinct manifestations of its hereditary character.

Were it not for lifting the veil that covers the misery which inebriety has entailed upon families, we should be able to give more than three hundred cases (that have come under our own observation) as illus-

trations of the peculiar morbid condition of the stomach, which is inherited in this disease. Dr. William Wood, of London, in a work published on Insanity, in 1852 (page 19), says, in speaking of *hereditary inebriety* :

“Instances are sufficiently familiar, and several have occurred within my own personal knowledge, where the father having died at an early age from the effects of intemperance, has left a son to be brought up by those who have severely suffered from his excesses, and have therefore the strongest motives to prevent, if possible, a repetition of such misery ; every pains has been taken to enforce sobriety, and yet, notwithstanding all precaution, the habits of the father have become the habits of the son, who, having never seen him from infancy, could not have adopted them from imitation. Everything was done to encourage habits of temperance, but all to no purpose ; the *seeds* of the *disease* had begun to germinate ; a blind impulse has led the doomed individual, by successive and rapid stages, along the same course which was fatal to his father, and which ere long terminates in his own destruction. This does not occur only among the lower orders, where it may be supposed that education has done little towards the cultivation of the mind, and the government of the passions and propensities—for it is observed in those whose education and position in society afforded the best guarantee that their conduct would be under the guidance of reason.”

The following case (for the history of which we are indebted to Dr. Q., of this city), further illustrates the hereditary character of this malady. This case was a

lady belonging to one of the most respectable families of our State, who died in the arms of his preceptor, Dr. C., in the year 1840. Dr. Q. relates :

“That one of the daughters of this lady, who was present, and witnessed the death of her mother, inquired of him the cause of her death; he replied (as he was a student) that Dr. C., would answer her question more satisfactorily; Dr. C., then being asked the same question, replied: ‘That for a long series of years her mother had been in the habit of stimulating to excess, which had produced the disease which caused her death.’ Since that time,” says Dr. Q., “the daughter, who witnessed her mother’s death, had become an inebriate, and her sister and brother had both died from the same disease.”

There is no one form of this disease that has attracted the attention of the medical profession, as well as that of the community at large, for the past ten years, more than mania a potu, or delirium tremens. There has been much speculation *in*, as well as *out of* the profession, as regards the *cause* of its fearful increase. Some have attributed it to the use of drugged liquors, which are supposed to be more poisonous, consequently more injurious to the constitution. All this may be true, but so far as our investigations have extended, we are convinced that the true cause of this increase of mania a potu, arises more from the peculiar constitution of the patient, than from the poisonous drugs now used in the adulteration of alcoholic stimulants. Fifty years ago delirium tremens was seldom seen, and when met with, was found to occur after a number of years of excess in the use of stimulants. Since that

period (which was a time when every man, woman, and child indulged in alcoholic drinks, in accordance with the custom of the day), this peculiar type of the disease has been on the increase, and now delirium tremens is produced by a few months' excess in alcoholic drinks; and, in some constitutions, I have seen it developed after a debauch of twenty-four hours. This radical change in the disease must be accounted for by peculiar constitutional tendencies inherited by the victim of this malady.

During the past twelve years 1179 cases of delirium tremens have come under our observation and treatment; of this number 816 persons had an inebriate parent or grandparent, or both. I believe if the history of each patient's ancestors was known, we should find that eight out of ten of them were free users of alcoholic drinks. One of the most remarkable cases that has come under our notice, showing an hereditary predisposition to delirium tremens, was a man of sober habits, whose daily occupation for six years had exposed him to the absorption of the vapors of alcohol. This case was of twelve hours' duration, and exhibited all the marked characteristics of this disease. Other cases of a similar origin are recorded in medical works. George M. Barrow, M. D., member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in his work on Insanity, speaking of delirium tremens, says:

"This affection has been known to be induced in persons of sober habits, whose daily occupation exposed them to the absorption of the fumes of alcohol." M. Leverette also alludes to instances of its being so induced.

Of all the diseases, which man is heir to, there is none so dreadful as delirium tremens, *one* of the stages of inebriety. Extreme poverty, hideous deformity, mutilation of limbs, deafness, blindness, all these, sad as they are, leave alive the human affections and admit the consolation of sympathy and love; while delirium tremens, not only makes its victim entirely dependent upon others for the supply of his physical wants, but it strips him of all the noblest attributes of humanity. It so entirely changes his heart that no affection can grow upon it, and the unhappy victim sinks and dies, or is so excited, as to crush the life out of the mother who bore him, as coolly as he would trample upon a serpent.

But the most terrible results, produced by inebriety, remain to be told in the *offspring* of inebriate parents, who are born constitutionally insane and idiotic. Such wrecks of human intellect now comprise more than forty per cent. of all our insanity, and fifty per cent. of all our idiocy. There are many instances in families where the parents are inebriates, that *several* of their children are found to be idiotic.

One of the most remarkable cases, we have met with was in a boatman's family, which I visited with a Russian physician, in the year 1850, in the town of Saratov, province of Saratov, Russia. The history of this family I learned from Doctor Foloff, who had known them for a number of years. The Doctor stated that: "The three eldest children (who were idiots) were born when their father and mother were inebriates. The parents afterwards recovered from this malady and were healthy for four years, during which time

they had two sons born, who were active and intelligent children. Finally the parents again became inebriates and had two more idiotic children."

The increase of insanity and idiocy, in this country for the past ten years, has engaged the attention of the philanthropist and the statesman, as well as that of the physician. The increase in the United States, from 1840 to 1850, has been more than eighty per cent. This fact should arouse the attention, and quicken the action of *our* State to use every means in its power to *stay* this fearful waste of intellect. To prove that the increase of insanity and idiocy is mainly due to inebriety, we have only to compare Scotland with France, England with Austria, the United States with Prussia, as seen in the following tables, which present the ratio of the insane and the idiotic in those countries:

<i>Inebriety most prevalent.</i>		<i>Inebriety least prevalent.</i>	
Scotland, . . .	1 to 563	France, . . .	1 to 1000
United States, .	1 to 751	Prussia, . . .	1 to 1140
England, . . .	1 to 793	Austria, . . .	1 to 1258

In extending our investigations on insanity and idiocy, we have found, in traveling through the Northern countries of Europe, where alcoholic drinks are used to excess, that the number of the insane and the idiotic is greater in proportion to the population, than in the South of Europe, where the weak wines are used as a beverage.

We have been compelled to differ with some phy-

sicians, who have made the ratio of insanity and idiocy produced by inebriety, much less than our statistics show. Their erroneous results were reached by their mistaking the exciting, for the remote cause of these maladies. Such mistakes have often come under our observation, and are readily made, because the friends of the patient often wish to conceal the *true* cause of his insanity or imbecility, *especially*, when it is inebriety.

It is not our purpose, in this paper, to discuss the exact time when the constitution becomes *diseased* by alcohol, or what quantity of that stimulant a person can use before becoming an inebriate. This point of time can be no more satisfactorily arrived at than the true time required for the production of yellow fever by the application of its exciting cause. Some constitutions would be affected in five minutes. In others it would require weeks, or, perhaps, months of exposure to miasmata, before the individual would discover the premonitory symptoms of the disease. So it is with different individuals who are in constant use of alcoholic stimulants. One person may drink to excess for twenty years without producing a morbid condition of stomach; while another by drinking to excess the same number of days would produce a disease of the whole system. It is impossible for the physician to state *when* the constitution is *first* affected by disease. The dividing line between health and disease has never been determined; nor can it ever be defined. The physiologist has never been able to draw the dividing line between sanity and insanity, or to determine *how much* of the exciting cause it requires to produce a

morbid condition of the brain. These nice distinctions in regard to the pathology of disease do not enter into the discussion in reference to the importance of establishing hospitals or asylums. Neither is it our province to point out the dividing line, where the moral responsibility ceases, and the irresponsibility begins in the *use* of alcoholic stimulants. The time and the only time, when this institution can reach the inebriate, is when he has lost self-control, and the law regards him as a dangerous citizen, or when he can be induced to enter the asylum voluntarily.

We will give in brief, but not in detail, the medical treatment which this institution will adopt in carrying out its mission. It will use great discrimination in classifying its patients according to their physical, moral and social condition. All stimulants and opiates of every description, will be excluded from its treatment: cutting off at once every agent of an exciting character; relying upon tonics, baths, etc., treating every patient according to his physical condition. It will insist upon a thorough hygienic course; good, nutritious diet, exercise, pure air, amusements in and out of doors, occupation, reading, religious and moral treatment. In short, it will treat inebriety as a *physical* and *mental* disease.

The time that it will require to effect a radical cure of the morbid condition of the stomach of the inebriate, will be very different in different cases, according to the severity of the disease and the constitutional condition of the patient. The experience of physicians in a number of insane institutions, shows that a very large proportion of the cases may be cured in

one year. That in that time the morbid condition of the stomach will be removed, the powers of the constitution will be renovated, and health be fully re-established; and that this new state of the constitution will be such that it will not crave alcoholic stimulants.

We have presented in brief what the leading pathologists of the day have established. By their investigations they have removed all doubt from the minds of medical men, as to the malady induced by alcohol. They regard inebriety as a disease *sui generis*; having a distinct morbid anatomy and pathology; although first self-induced, yet, uncontrollable as insanity.

It would not be stating too much if we should declare that the Inebriate Asylum (although the *first* institution of the kind in the world) has the most substantial, scientific and medical indorsement of any hospital in our country. There is not a physician in our State, occupying a prominent position in his profession, who has not cheerfully and heartily subscribed his money to build this asylum. Their number amounts to more than nine hundred, and they have subscribed more than twelve thousand dollars.

The following is a copy of the petition presented to the Legislature of 1857, which sets forth the medical opinion of more than fifteen hundred physicians of our State, as regards the importance of establishing the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

"We, the undersigned, Physicians and Citizens of the State of New York, would respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to the vital importance of an immediate appropriation of a sum of money sufficient to build the Inebriate Asylum, which has

already been chartered by the State of New York. We, as practitioners, have long felt the necessity of having an asylum, where the inebriate could be *medically* and *morally* treated, with sufficient restraint to control the patient.

"Without such an institution, the Physician has been compelled to turn from his patient, discouraged, disheartened, and defeated—and the victim of this painful malady, be he rich or poor, high or low, educated or uneducated, alike must find a drunkard's death and a drunkard's grave. With this institution we can save hundreds, who are now crowding our insane asylums, inundating our courts, dying in our prisons, and perishing in our streets.

"We are not inclined to urge the argument of economy in establishing the Inebriate Asylum (although we have every reason to believe that it will be a self-supporting institution), when fifty-five per cent. of all our insanity, and sixty-eight per cent. of all our idiocy, springs directly or indirectly from Inebriety alone. We regard it as a matter of duty so sacred, that until discharged we have no right, as a moral and enlightened people, to finish our great internal improvements, erect monuments in commemoration of battles, public works to art, or even *costly* temples to God.

"We maintain that our whole lives spent in our professional duties, and as private citizens, go to prove that, in the present state of society, there is no institution so much needed as an asylum for inebriates. *Medical science demands it; civilization demands it; morality demands it; Christianity demands it; and everything sacred and good in our country demands it.*

"We commend this great and Philanthropic object to your enlightened minds and noble impulses; trusting that the Inebriate Asylum will be an ornament to the State of New York, and stand among the brightest tributes of humanity, which our country or the world has ever created for the benefit of mankind."

Signed,

*Valentine Mott,

Isaac Wood,

*Martyn Paine,

*Gunning S. Bedford,

*John T. Metcalfe,

*Robert Watts,

*William H. Van Buren,

*John W. Draper,

*Charles E. Isaacs,

Gordon Buck,

David M. Reese,

John W. Francis,

*Alexander H. Stevens,

*John Torrey,

*Horace Green,

*J. M. Carnochan,

*A. C. Post,

James R. Wood,

*Edmund R. Peaslee,

*Edward H. Parker,

*Edward H. Davis,

William Detmold,

Edward Delafield,

Thomas Cock,

*Joseph M. Smith,

*Willard Parker,

*C. R. Gilman,

*Alonzo Clark,

*B. Fordyce Barker,

*R. Ogden Doremus,

*Henry G. Cox,

John C. Beales,

Abram D. Wilson,

John P. Batchelder,
 John Watson,
 Jared Linsley,
 John J. Cranc,
 G. P. Cammann,
 Edward Bayard,
 Edward L. Beadle,
 Henry D. Bulkley,
 Stephen Wood,
 George F. Woodward,
 Alexander B. Mott,
 Thomas C. Chalmers,
 John P. Garrison,
 J. Henry Johnson,
 James R. Chilton,
 A. Gescheidt,
 A. N. Gunn,
 Seth Gehr,
 J. W. G. Clements,
 B. W. McCready,
 Walter C. Palmer,
 B. W. Budd,
 James B. Kissam,
 S. R. Kirby,
 S. P. Kuypers,
 Stephen S. Keene,
 Alanson S. Jones,
 J. Foster Jenkins,
 Wm. H. Jackson,
 E. H. Kimbark,
 Frederick Elliot,
 J. C. Forrester,
 Joel Foster,
 F. Willis Fisher,
 Thomas C. Finnell,
 Henry Guernsey,
 Samuel L. Griswold,
 Alban Goldsmith,
 S. T. Hubbard,
 Galen Hunter,
 Lewis Hallock,
 James Hyslop,
 Wm. A. Hunter,
 L. T. Warner,
 A. L. White,
 George W. Ivcs,
 Peter Van Buren,
 M. D. Van Pelt,
 A. Van Antwerp,
 J. R. Van Kleeck,
 P. Van Arsdale,
 James O. Smith,
 David Smith,
 E. W. Ranney,
 J. W. Ranney,
 Abram Du Bois,

Richard S. Kissam,
 J. Marion Sims,
 Edward G. Ludlow,
 Lewis A. Sayre,
 B. R. Robson,
 Wm. W. Miner,
 Benjamin Ogden,
 Edward H. Dixon,
 Joseph Worster,
 Clark Wright,
 Aug. K. Gardner,
 Samuel Elliott,
 H. P. De Wees,
 J. B. Dorsey,
 Galen Carter,
 W. W. Hall,
 C. Henschel,
 T. M. Halsted,
 Wm. H. Maxwell,
 Elias L. Nichols,
 Robert McMurray,
 E. R. Belcher,
 Joseph W. Richards,
 Wm. Rockwell,
 T. M. Markoe,
 Stephen Smith,
 Joel S. Oatman,
 John O'Reilly,
 Henry F. Quackenbos,
 H. D. Ranney,
 Joseph Martin,
 N. H. Chesebrough,
 W. H. Bell,
 James Mairs,
 B. F. Bowers,
 M. Levings,
 B. Ledeboc,
 Pardon Lapham,
 W. Henry Church,
 Edward M. Cameron,
 Alfred S. Pnrdy,
 H. Weeks Brown,
 Daniel Ayres,
 Daniel Brooks,
 Purcell Cook,
 James Crane,
 Daniel E. Kissam,
 R. Rossman,
 A. Cook Hull,
 John Ball,
 John Barker,
 A. J. Berry,
 H. J. Cullen,
 De Witt C. Enos,
 J. Condit Halsey,
 John F. Gray,

Richard Pennell,
 Gustavus A. Sabine,
 Thomas F. Cock,
 John Miller,
 A. S. Ball,
 Alfred Freeman,
 B. F. Joslin,
 Samuel M. Watson,
 Alexander B. Hosack,
 J. H. Griscom,
 S. Conant Foster,
 William Cockroft,
 G. S. Carter,
 Alexander Clinton,
 John W. Corson,
 George Wilkes,
 F. V. Johnston, Jr.,
 James O. Pond,
 Samuel S. Purple,
 Peter Pratt,
 George Belcher,
 *Alden March,
 *James H. Armsby,
 *James McNaughton,
 *Thomas Hun,
 *Howard Townsend,
 *Dr. Quackenbush,
 *James P. White,
 *Austin Flint,
 *Frank Hamilton,
 *Thomas F. Rochester,
 *E. M. Moore,
 *George Burr,
 Edson Carr,
 E. W. Armstrong,
 H. W. Dean,
 J. G. Snell,
 Thomas C. Brinsmade,
 W. N. Duane,
 Peter McNaughton,
 B. P. Staats,
 Mason F. Cogswell,
 Alfred Watkins,
 C. R. McClellan,
 James M. Minor,
 Joseph M. Turner,
 Otto Rotton,
 Sidney Wade,
 B. N. Wendell,
 H. S. Smith,
 O. H. Smith,
 T. W. Powers,
 F. W. Ostrander,
 L. C. McPhail,
 J. C. Benham,
 John Swinburne,

And thirteen hundred other physicians of the State.

* Professors in Medical Colleges.

The State Medical Society, at their meeting held at Albany, February 8th, 1857, fully indorsed the Inebriate Asylum, and unanimously adopted a resolution offered by George Burr, M.D., of Binghamton, recommending it to the favor and earnest support not only of the Legislature of the State, but to the public at large.

The following is a copy of the memorial of the Onondaga Medical Society, addressed to the Legislature, January 27, 1857 :

"The undersigned, your memorialists, the officers and members of the Onondaga Medical Society, have watched with much interest the progress made by Dr. TURNER and others in establishing an Inebriate Asylum, and have rejoiced at the success which has crowned their labors. The spirit which has been exhibited by our citizens, needs but to be seconded by your Honorable body, to realize the establishment of an institution which, in the opinion of your memorialists, will prove to be one of the most important and beneficial, in its influence and results, which was ever devised for an unfortunate portion of our fellow-citizens. From a long experience in the duties of that profession which has brought us in daily contact with the victims of a diseased appetite, we have been forced to the conclusion that an institution, in which the patient could be medically and morally treated, would prove to be of greater benefit, socially, politically, and charitably, than any other institution of its nature in our land.

"Your memorialists believe that the system devised by the friends of that undertaking is founded upon correct scientific and pathological views, and that, if it shall appear worthy to your Honorable body to lend the needed assistance, in conjunction with that which has been so promptly extended by your fellow-citizens at large, we shall readily experience that benefit which can be realized in no other manner, and which, we sincerely believe, will result in a success more perfect than may be expected by those less acquainted with the many forms and characteristics of this unfortunate and extensive malady.

"Your memorialists therefore pray that the public assistance

may be extended to an undertaking which will prove a public benefit, and that the private confidence and individual efforts may be generously seconded and encouraged, by the guardians of the public welfare : and your memorialists will ever pray.

"In testimony whereof, witness the seal of our Society, and the signatures of its President and Secretary. Signed :

[L. S.]

"A. B. SHIPMAN, M. D., President.

"WILLIAM MANLIUS SMITH, Secretary.

"Syracuse, January 27th, 1857."

The editors of the leading medical journals in this country, are strong advocates for this Asylum; and the prominent superintendents of the Insane Asylums, in the United States, have expressed, in their reports, the *necessity* of having an institution for the control and medical treatment of the inebriate. The able and experienced Dr. Skae, of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, in his Report, in 1854, says :

"Of all the cases of insanity which have come under my treatment, there are none which have given me so much trouble, as those who have lost self-control by the use of stimulants. Some Legislative enactment for the control of such patients, and their treatment in an Asylum, especially set apart for their use, would save many lives, and many families from shame, grief, the loss of property, and total ruin."

Alexander Peddie, M. D., F. R. S. P. E., of Edinburgh, in a very able pamphlet, which he has just published, on the subject of establishing an Inebriate Asylum in Scotland, says :

"It is, I consider, as much the duty of a government to control and medically treat the dipsomaniac, as it is to stay the hand of the homicide or the suicide in their insane impulses."

The late celebrated Dr. S. B. Woodward, of the Worcester Insane Asylum, in an able essay on the subject of establishing asylums for the inebriate, says:

"My connection with the Insane Asylum for twelve years, convinces me that the importance of an Inebriate Asylum has not its equal among the hospitals of the day; and if such an institution could be founded it would be a great public blessing, and nine out of ten of the inebriates who could be brought under its control and treatment would be *radically* cured."

The enlightened and accomplished statesman, Governor Chase, of Ohio, has, in his message to the Legislature, strongly recommended an appropriation to build an Inebriate Asylum. Long will his name be remembered, as the first Governor who recommended an appropriation for this object.

Among the petitioners for an appropriation to this Asylum are more than sixty leading judges of our courts; more than six hundred leading lawyers; more than five hundred leading clergymen; more than fifteen hundred leading physicians; more than two thousand leading merchants; and more than three thousand leading farmers and mechanics of our State. The petitioners to the Legislature, for an appropriation for this institution, and the subscribers to its fund, represent more than fifty pr. ct. of all the property of the State.

It is impossible to treat the inebriate at his home, without endangering the lives of his family, producing utter wretchedness to his friends, destruction to his estate, and finally, death to himself. Every physician well knows, by sad experience, that it is as impossible

to treat the inebriate successfully without an asylum, as it is to treat the maniac without an hospital.

We cannot send the inebriate to the Insane Asylum (although the best institution *yet* established for his treatment), without doing a serious injury to the insane as well as to the inebriate. To admit them in the same hospital, and to classify them in the same ward, is to irritate the former, mentally degrade the latter, and defeat, in a degree, the great object of this truly noble charity.

Neither are our hospitals adapted for the restraint and treatment of the inebriate. The following case, which occurred in our City Hospital, in September, of 1857, illustrates this fact: "John Mead, a seaman (late of the steamship *Arago*), having been in the hospital a few days, undergoing treatment for delirium tremens, secretly procured a carving-knife, used by one of the nurses for cutting bread, and made an attack upon the nurse in charge, then on a sailor in the same ward, and finally on a young man named Wagener, who lay asleep on his bed. Wagener received several wounds, of which he soon after died. Mead was tried for murder, and acquitted on the ground of insanity."

Experience teaches that in the present state of society the inebriate cannot be restrained in our prisons and alms-houses, without incurring physical suffering, abuse, and degradation; without becoming worse himself, and presenting a demoralizing picture to others. In visiting these institutions, we have not been able to find a case of inebriety that has had a proper medical or moral treatment. Some have gone forth from

these moral pest-houses, preferring to perish in the street rather than to remain associated with criminals.

The following case, given by Professor Mussey, of Cincinnati, will illustrate the complete loss of self-control of the inebriate, and the poor treatment this class of patients receive in our alms-houses : " A few years ago, a tippler was put into an alms-house in this State. Within a few days he had devised various expedients to procure rum, but failed. At length, however, he hit upon one which was successful. He went into the wood yard of the establishment, placed one hand upon the block, and with an axe in the other, struck it off at a single blow. With the stump raised and streaming, he ran into the house, and cried : ' Get some rum ! get some rum ! my hand is off ! ' In the confusion and bustle of the occasion, a bowl of rum was brought, into which he plunged the bleeding member of his body ; then raising the bowl to his mouth, drank freely, and exultingly exclaimed : ' Now, I am satisfied. ' "

We are acquainted with men who have occupied high positions in the Church, in the State, on the bench, at the bar, and in the medical profession, who have lost all self-control, and who must perish by this disease. We will give the history of a case which came under our treatment, showing the importance of having an asylum to control the patient. Dr. C., a gentleman who had occupied a high position in his profession, came to us for treatment and restraint. We took him into our office, in order to have him under our immediate care. He remained with us four weeks, during which time he secretly drank the alcohol from six jars containing morbid specimens. On asking

him why he had committed this loathsome act, he replied: "Sir, it is as impossible for me to control this diseased appetite, as it is for me to control the pulsations of my heart." Finding that it was out of our power to control him, we were under the necessity of sending him back to his friends, where death soon closed the career of this unfortunate man.

Already, there has been more than 2,800 applications for admission to this Institution, more than four hundred of whom are women in the high walks of life, educated and accomplished.

Another case, which has terminated in death, during the past year, forcibly illustrates the want of an institution where the inebriate can be controlled and medically dealt with. This gentleman was one whom you have known as a private citizen and as a leading journalist—whose reputation at home and abroad endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, either socially or publicly. A few years since he was attacked with a disease, for which his physician recommended stimulants—the quantity to be regulated by the severity of the attack. The result of this prescription was, that the man became diseased by alcohol, lost self-control, and died with delirium tremens. Three months before he died, he told me that he had lost self-control, and should die; but, said he, "If the Inebriate Asylum was in existence, I would go to it as a patient, and live again."

The last case I shall mention is that of a gentleman with whom you were well acquainted, and whose reputation was as wide as the commerce of the nation, and whose commercial statistics will be consulted as

long as commerce shall flourish.* He possessed a mind far above mediocrity—an industry untiring as the day, and an energy which overcame all difficulties in business—yet, he could not control himself. This malady with him was a disease, and was as much beyond his control as insanity. No pride of character could restrain him—no public reputation could control him—no social endearments could check him—no promise, no vow, however sacred, could keep him from gratifying his diseased appetite. Many a time has he shed bitter tears over *this*, his calamity—has wept, and drank; and drank, and wept—and died.

We contend that this institution will have more elements for the successful treatment of the inebriate, than any Lunatic Asylum has for the treatment of the insane. Experience and medical science have already verified this fact. It is obvious to every mind that the removal of the insane patient to a Lunatic Hospital does not remove the exciting cause of insanity. It may require weeks, or even months, before the cause of mental derangement can be determined. But in the case of inebriety the removal of the patient to this Asylum, removes *at once* the exciting cause of his

* The following letter, received from Hon. Ex-Mayor LAMBERT, of Brooklyn, refers to the case above-mentioned.

NEW YORK, March 4, 1857.

DR. J. EDWARD TURNER, Albany:

Dear Sir:—You know Mr. ———, Editor of ———. I saw him on Saturday, and he is very desirous that the Asylum should be commenced, as his only hope for a *cure of his disease* is in such a retreat. My heart bleeds for him—he feels terribly his situation; and to save such a man as ———, is worth more than the riches of Cræsus.

I trust you will succeed in interesting our Legislature in the Asylum, for be assured, what money is expended for this object will be more than saved, by the diminution of taxes and crime.

Yours truly,

EDWARD A. LAMBERT.

malady and places him *at once* in the condition of cure. The experience which physicians have had in their private practice and in Insane Asylums, shows that we shall be able to successfully treat and *radically* cure seventy out of the one hundred patients admitted to this institution. The late Dr. Woodward, of the Worcester Insane Asylum, says: "From the many hundreds of inebriates I have treated, I am convinced that nine out of ten of them could be successfully treated and radically cured in an inebriate asylum." The following case given by Dr. W., shows that the most desperate and the most hopeless cases can be saved. Says the Doctor: "I once had a person under my care, who had used spirituous liquors in great quantities, and for a long period of time. He was placed in circumstances where it was impossible for him to obtain it. Naturally vigorous and stout-hearted (although his face was as rough as a pine-apple, and of a crimson redness), his constitution seemed to retain a considerable energy, although he had used a large quantity of alcoholic stimulants daily for twenty years. It was concluded, in consultation, by those who now had the care of this unhappy man, to take away all his stimulants *at once*, and watch him carefully, and to administer to his wants all that nutrition of the most savory and grateful kind, which should alleviate in any measure the tempest of suffering, which we supposed he must inevitably meet. His sufferings were unparalleled both in intensity and duration; the hardness of his natural ferocity was melted into childishness; and in the agony of his torments, with torrents of tears flowing over his cheeks, he would beg with

all the eloquence which famished nature could call forth, and inward torments could elicit, that one dram, one glass should be afforded him. I shall never forget the horror of this scene; I shall never forget the heart-rending appeals made to me in my daily rounds; I shall never forget how far were my feelings from torturing and ridiculing this wretched sufferer, whose every nerve was in torment, whose stomach rejecting the bland nutrition that was given it, called loudly and imperiously for that bewitching draught, which, if the cause of all his horror, was, he well knew, the only means of relief from his present agony. But no alcoholic stimulant was afforded him. His symptoms were watched with care, and those medicines administered from time to time which his situation required. In a few weeks he improved; in a few months he recruited; in two years he was well—in better health than he had been for many years. His cancerous nose was made smooth, and he acknowledges with gratitude that we saved him from ignominy and an untimely grave.”

It is no longer problematical that inebriety can be controlled, treated, and cured by an asylum; experience in private practice, as well as in insane asylums, demonstrates this fact beyond a doubt. Are we not incurring a great responsibility, as a government as well as individuals, when we permit the inebriate to go at large, and to die, without making a proper effort to save him?

It now rests with those whom Providence has provided with influence with our State, to accomplish this great work, which its citizens have so generously begun.

Almost every physician in ordinary practice, and those who are connected with Insane Asylums, have met with such cases as the above mentioned. Had we time, and space in this paper, we could give more cases of inebriety of the most aggravated and painful character, which have occurred in our own practice, and even among families in the higher walks of life ; cases, which have entailed insanity and idiocy on an innocent posterity.

It matters not *how* this disease may have been induced ; whether by stimulants prescribed for sickness, or by the encouragement of parents ; by the influence of social friends, or gay associates ; whether under extenuating circumstances, or in full view of the terrible penalty which this malady inflicts on its victim, the State is equally bound to protect society against its outrages. The innocent and the virtuous should not be exposed to the insane man, let the cause of his insanity be what it may. He should be taken to an Asylum to be controlled and treated according to his disease. All the laws and penalties which a State can enact against crime committed by the inebriate, will never prevent him, *while at large*, from committing murder, arson, and theft, or from taking his own life. The experience we have had upon this subject during the past year *alone*, is enough to convince every enlightened mind that such a policy endangers the life of every citizen, and places in the hands of the insane man the flaming torch of the incendiary. The true policy of a government is to prevent crime rather than to punish it. Why, then, should our State allow its citizens to go at large when they have lost self-

control, and when experience shows that it is not compatible with private and public safety for them to remain at liberty? Does the State bring to life the murdered family, by simply going through the accustomed forms of judicial procedure, in order to punish the man for what he can scarcely be held responsible, or place him as a criminal at the bar, when his testimony would not be received in the witness-box, or find out too late that he really is a maniac, and send him at last to an Asylum as a criminal? The only *true* and *enlightened* policy, then, which experience points out and judgment dictates, is for the State to provide an Asylum for *this class* of our insane. Every enlightened citizen of our country will approve of such a policy, and long will be remembered the Administration which has through its wisdom provided an Asylum where the inebriate can be controlled and treated; and in which his malady *can be cured*—a malady which is a *disease* in individuals, a *curse* to families, a *plague* to communities, and a *destruction* to races.

It is but a few years since that our asylums were established for the treatment of the insane poor. They were advocated by men of intelligent minds and noble hearts; yet, our legislators opposed the plan on the ground of extravagance. Some of the leading journals of that day also made severe attacks upon this noble and humane charity. Where is the man of an enlightened mind who would now advocate the policy of closing up our insane asylums on the ground of economy, and would send the maniac back to the poor-houses and jails, because the State is *too*

poor and too much in debt to support the lunatic where his malady can be medically dealt with? Necessity now calls as loudly for the Inebriate Asylum, as it did for the Insane Asylum. Who can doubt the importance of this Institution, when observation teaches that Inebriety consigns annually to the grave more of its victims than small-pox, yellow fever, and cholera combined—a disease that lays its blighting and withering hand upon the buds of early years as well as upon manhood, the maturer tree of life? On what family hearth-stone in our land is not found recorded its mournful biography of blasted hopes, broken vows, destroyed constitutions, and premature deaths?

Physicians throughout the State have declared, in memorials to the Legislature: “That there is no institution so much needed as the Inebriate Hospital.” What better testimony can be produced to show its importance? What argument can be raised in justification of the policy of our State, in refusing to appropriate to this object, when the united voice of the intelligence of our country *demand*s it as a *necessity*?

To place a true value on the importance of this Institution, we have only to recall the history of early associates, some of whom have long since met the inebriate’s fate, and gone to the inebriate’s grave. By such an Asylum, our friends would have been saved from a premature death, and would have held stations of honor and usefulness in society. Who can tell what near and dear friend of ours may hereafter fall a victim to this disease, and, in a state of delirium tremens, take his own life or massacre his own family? Painful as it is, yet, it *is* our duty to found hospitals for

our posterity. If *our* children should become inebriates, God forbid ! that *they* should not find an asylum for control, treatment, and cure.

The learned Dr. JOHN W. FRANCIS, in his able and eloquent address, delivered at the laying of the Corner-Stone of the Asylum in September last, expressed most fully the opinions of the entire profession (which he so ably represented on the occasion), relative to the action of the State in lending her aid to found this hospital : "It is apparent, however, that too many circumstances favor the projection and organization of this establishment, to entertain for a moment the idea that neglect at any time will mark the action of our State authorities. The intellectual refinement of the age forbids the thought—the people at large are too much interested in its success—legislation cannot become so short-sighted, as to look with coldness on the design ; and public sentiment must overpower adverse feelings, if, perchance, such a miraculous interposition should unfortunately occur, against an at present universal acquiescence."

The Government of France, which has so long been celebrated for its humane and medical institutions, has never turned a *deaf ear* to the applications made by her scientific and her medical men, for assistance in founding hospitals or institutions for charity. France, whether at peace or in war, with her treasury full or depleted, has always found money enough for every object which her medical men have considered to be important for the well-being of society, and the preservation of the health and lives of her subjects. We hope that *our* State will imitate the noble and liberal

policy of France, in *first* providing for *all* of her *benevolent and humane institutions*, *before* extending her national improvements.

Every principle of sound political economy, as well as an enlightened Christianity, shows that the State is bound to provide liberally for the control and treatment of the inebriate. The inebriate has already paid to the State the revenue arising from the Excise Law (for it is not the vender, but the consumer, who pays this revenue)—a revenue sufficient in amount to provide an asylum for his control, treatment, and cure. Yet the State permits him to die in jails and poor-houses, or perish in the street; to entail upon his posterity all the morbid conditions of this disease, and stamp forever, disgrace and pauperism upon his innocent children. What better use could the State make of the revenue arising from the Excise Law, than to pay it back to the heart-stricken wife, and the worse than fatherless children, who have been robbed of every comfort of life to pay this revenue to the State. Should it not be restored to them, by giving back from this Asylum a husband and father, reclaimed, redeemed, and saved? If the State permits a revenue to arise from this business, it should amply provide for the disease it creates. Our alms-houses receive this revenue, yet there has never been a case of inebriety, which has received a judicious medical and moral treatment within their walls. It matters not in what direction this revenue is directed, it belongs exclusively to the cure of the disease it creates. If the State appropriates it to other objects, it should provide for its cure from the general fund of the State. Nothing

short of this can cancel the State's obligation to the desolate family of the inebriate.

We are happy to see that you, as an enlightened statesman, regard it "creditable to Christian civilization and humanity" for the State to expend forty thousand dollars for an asylum at Auburn to control and treat thirty-seven insane convicts; "and that you recommend further appropriations to the same object." If it is creditable to an enlightened Christianity and humanity for the State to spend so large an amount in providing for the physical comfort and control of the insane convict, *what kind of Christian civilization and humanity (we would ask)*, is that which will excuse the State in a *policy* of withholding aid to found an institution which the physicians of our State regard as more *necessary* than any *insane asylum* in the *world*? Has not the State an interest in saving the inebriate who has once presided over its government as its chief magistrate, sat upon the bench as its learned judge, plead at its bar as no man ever plead, officiated at the sacred desk as the devoted pastor, instructed and delighted the student as the learned professor and accomplished physician? Is it not more valuable to save the *lives* of *these men* to the State, to the country, and to the world, than that of the insane convict in our prisons? Has not the State a greater interest in rescuing its valuable citizens from a premature grave, than in the completion of her canals?

If our State regards our *internal improvements* to be of greater importance than the lives of our citizens, then the word *poverty* is substituted for *avarice*, and

our Christian civilization is but a *sham*, and our *pretended* humanity a *disgrace* to Christendom.

In placing this Asylum in the front rank of the charities of the age, we would not diminish the importance of other great benevolent institutions of our country. They are the expressions of the noble impulses of individual benevolence. They are a shadowing forth of that true humanity and exalted paternal love, which our State throws around her weak and unfortunate children.

Finally, let the Legislature be urged to make immediately, an ample provision for this Institution, *cost what it may*. New York is not *too poor* to do any thing *which is shown to be her duty*.

We herewith submit the whole subject for your mature deliberation, trusting that your administration will be characterized by a sound and noble policy, and known only for its *wisdom, purity, and humanity*

With much respect, I remain,

Your humble and obedient servant,

J. EDWARD TURNER,

Cor. Sec. of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

LETTERS

FROM DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Correspondence.

THE following are a few of the numerous letters received from gentlemen invited to be present on the occasion.

I.

A letter from the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, President of the United States.

Washington City, 24th Sept., 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—My recent brief visit to my home in Pennsylvania has prevented me from acknowledging sooner your very kind invitation, in behalf of the Trustees of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, to be present this day at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the building for that noble Institution.

This undertaking commends itself to the warm approbation of every friend of humanity, and every lover of his country; and I most cordially wish it all the success which it so eminently and justly deserves.

Yours, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

To J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary.*

II.

From Hon. LEWIS CASS, Secretary of State.

Washington City, Sept. 17, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—It would afford me great pleasure to accept your invitation to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, at Binghamton, on the 24th inst., were it in my power. But my public duties will necessarily detain me here at that time, and, instead of participating in the ceremonies which will mark that interesting occasion, I must content myself with expressing my deep sympathy with this noble effort to redeem human nature from one of the most terrible evils which afflict it, and my hope that it may meet all the success which its best friends could desire.

With great respect, I am, dear sir, your obd't servant,

LEWIS CASS.

J. EDWARD TURNER, Binghamton, N. Y.

III.

From Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD, Secretary of War.

Washington, Sept. 20, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 16th, inviting me to participate in the ceremony of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

Sympathizing most sincerely with the benevolent objects of the founders and promoters of this noble enterprise, in behalf of a class of unfortunates on whom have been expended so much of the commiseration of the world, and so little of its charity, and for whom so few well-directed efforts have been made, it would afford me unmingled gratification to be present on this interesting occasion. But, I regret to say, the pressing nature of my public duties will compel me to forego that pleasure, and to decline the invitation you have so kindly extended. I can only offer my best wishes

for the success of an Institution which adds *one* to the many works which have risen as monuments to the munificent benevolence of your citizens, and my assurance of the high respect with which I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD.

J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

IV.

From Hon. AARON V. BROWN, Post-Master General.

Washington City, 18th September, 1858.

SIR:—I regret that engagements connected with my public duties forbid my acceptance of your invitation to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, at Binghamton, on the 24th inst.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

AARON V. BROWN.

To J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary*,
Binghamton, N. Y.

V.

From Hon. JOHN A. KING, Governor of the State of New York.

State of New York, }
Executive Department, Albany, Sept. 17th, 1858. }

DEAR SIR:—I regret exceedingly that it will not be possible for me to accept your invitation to be present, and assist at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, at Binghamton, on the 24th of September. My engagements, at this moment, require my whole time, and my presence here. I fully ap-

preciate the noble and untiring efforts you have made in this great cause of humanity ; and congratulate you, and the people of the State, that those efforts are about to be crowned with success, by the erection of the first Inebriate Asylum in the world. May you reap the true reward of so much labor and anxiety, in the solace and comfort it will afford to all who may be received within its friendly walls.

With great respect, I remain, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. KING.

DR. J. EDWARD TURNER.

VI.

From Hon. PRESTON KING.

Ogdensburgh, Sept. 16, 1858.

J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary, &c.* :

Dear Sir :—Your letter of the 11th inst. is received, with an invitation in behalf of the Trustees of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, to participate in the ceremonies at Binghamton, on Friday, the 24th day of September, inst., when the Corner-Stone of the Asylum will be laid.

It would give me great pleasure to be present ; and I regret that my engagements are such as to prevent my attending. The generous object which your Association proposes, is one that challenges the approval and favor of the public.

With my best wishes for the success of the Asylum, and with my thanks for your kind invitation,

I am, very respectfully,

PRESTON KING.

VII.

From Hon. R. CAMPBELL, Lieut. Gov. elect of the State of New York.

Bath, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have received your favor of the 20th instant, and regret that my business engagements are such as to preclude me from being present at the ceremonies of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

For the past quarter of a century, the philanthropists of this and other countries have been engaged in efforts to suppress the use of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage. Moral suasion and coercive measures have both proved unavailing to stay the desolating ravages of the evil, or disease of intemperance. The time has now arrived when something should be done by way of cure to the victims of this malady—and if this *pioneer* Institution shall prove to be that moral lever (which its friends anticipate) to elevate that unfortunate class, who have become inebriates; and restore them to their friends and to usefulness, then will all future generations of men arise and call those blessed, who shall have aided in establishing or sustaining this Asylum.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

R. CAMPBELL.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

VIII.

From Hon. A. J. PARKER.

St. Nicholas Hotel, }
New York, Sept. 23, 1858. }

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER.

Dear Sir:—Your note of 20th inst., inviting me to be present to-morrow at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the N. Y. State

Inebriate Asylum, has been forwarded to me here, from Albany, and has but just now reached my hands. In acknowledging its receipt, I am compelled to express my great regret, that the professional engagement, which called me here, will detain me all the week, and thus prevent my acceptance.

With a sincere desire for the success of the Institution you represent, and great respect for those engaged in its establishment, I am, very truly, yours,

A. J. PARKER.

IX.

From Hon. DANIEL F. TIEMANN, Mayor of the City of New York.

Mayor's Office,
New York, 23rd Sept., 1858. }

To J. EDWARD TURNER, *Cor. Sec.*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

Dear Sir:—I have just received your note inviting me to be present at Binghamton on the 24th inst., and to participate in the solemnities of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, the pioneer Institution, as you truly say, of the kind in the world.

I can assure you, my dear sir, that it would afford me great happiness to be with you on this most interesting occasion (as it promises to be), and to participate in the ceremonies of the day; but my official engagements here will deprive me of this pleasure.

But if not able to be present in person, I am with you in heart. I believe that this Institution will result in signal good to that unfortunate class, for whose care and treatment it has been designed, and that the example thus inaugurated by its benevolent founders, will be followed by the establishment of similar asylums, not only in other sections of our country, but throughout the globe.

With my best wishes for the success of your noble work, I remain, my dear sir, yours, very respectfully,

DANIEL F. TIEMANN.

X.

From Hon. N. S. BENTON.

Albany, September 24, 1858.

J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary, &c.*

Dear Sir:—In consequence of a temporary absence from the city, your esteemed favor, of the 20th instant, was not received by me until this day.

I should take great pleasure in being with you on the highly interesting occasion of Laying the Corner-Stone of your valuable Institution, which, in its practical results, must confer on man so many and great blessings.

The lateness of the hour at which your letter was received, must, of course, be a sufficient excuse.

I thank you for the flattering manner in which you have been pleased to express your appreciation of the interest and feelings that you suppose I entertain of your noble work, and allow me to say, I am, with great respect, yours,

N. S. BENTON.

XI.

From WASHINGTON IRVING, Esq.

Sunny-Side, September 14, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—It gives me great satisfaction to learn that the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum is about to be laid, and I should rejoice to be present on so interesting an occasion; but I am afflicted at present by a severe access of an inveterate catarrh, which renders me unfit for any place but home.

I beg you to make my grateful acknowledgements to the Board of Trustees for the invitation with which they have honored me, and to accept my thanks for the very kind expressions of your letter.

With great respect, your obliged and humble servant,

WASHINGTON IRVING.

J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary, &c.*

XII.

From JAMES BOORMAN, *Esq.*

Hyde Park, Sept 21, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER.

Dear Sir:—I have your favor of yesterday. I should have much pleasure in being with you to participate in the ceremonies of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum. But circumstances do not admit of my leaving home at the present time. I must, therefore, confine myself to the expression of my best wishes, that your life may be preserved to see the Institution (for the establishment of which you have so perseveringly and honorably labored), in the full tide of successful operation. Philanthropy could not have selected a more fruitful object for the relief of suffering humanity.

Your friend and obedient servant,

J. BOORMAN.

XIII.

From ELIPHALET NOTT, D.D., LL.D.

Union College, Sept. 11, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—On my return from a short excursion, I find your letter. My heart is in the charity in favor of which you ask me to lead in the prayer to be offered to Almighty God in its behalf on the occasion referred to in your letter.

It pains me, therefore, to assure you that neither my health, nor my previous engagements will allow me to comply with your request, and can only therefore, though absent, unite in supplications to our common Father for his continued blessing in behalf of this noble charity.

Please present my acknowledgements to the Board, and believe me, yours, with great respect,

ELIPHALET NOTT.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER.

XIV.

From the Right Reverend BISHOP POTTER, D.D.

33 West 24th Street,
New York, September 23, 1858. }

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER.

My Dear Sir:—I regret very much that absence from town prevented me from receiving your note until to-day, and that my engagements make it quite impossible for me to be with you to-morrow. There is no undertaking which deserves more sympathy than well-directed efforts to reclaim and save the Inebriate. That your efforts may be crowned with abundant success, is the earnest hope of, dear sir, your friend and servant,

H. POTTER.

XV.

From the Right Reverend BISHOP JANES, D. D.

New York, November 4th, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER.

Dear Sir:—My absence, on official duties, prevented me from being present on the interesting occasion of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum; and has also prevented an earlier reply to your note.

I congratulate you most sincerely on your success in this humane enterprise. It is a noble work, and I anticipate from it great good to poor, wrecked humanity.

May your philanthropy never fail, or even flag—God and duty!

Yours truly,

E. S. JANES.

From Professor ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK, D. D.

Union Theological Seminary, }
New York, September 22d, 1858. }

Dr. TURNER.

My Dear Sir:—Your kind letter, inviting me to take part in the services at Binghamton, on the 24th inst., was duly received.

I acknowledge the validity of your claim upon me, and should myself be only too happy to contrast what you will see and hear at Binghamton, with what you and I saw and heard at the Broadway Tabernacle, now nearly three years ago. Then, a handful of people: now, a crowd. Then, the chill of a general apathy: now, the cheer of popular favor, and the largest expectations of good results. I congratulate you on this great change. You have done the work, or at least have inspired others to do it; and I know of no man who would dream of disputing the laurel with you.

My own opinion of the desirableness of such an Institution as this, whose Corner-Stone you are now about to lay, remains unchanged. To hundreds upon hundreds of poor victims of appetite, whose wills have become enslaved beyond all self-help, this retreat will prove a great mercy. It will help them to do what they would never do alone, and recover themselves to bodily and mental and moral soundness.

I regret my inability to be with you at the Laying of the Corner-Stone. Our term has so recently commenced, that I do not feel myself at liberty to break in upon its routine. But you have my best wishes, now and ever.

Yours, very truly,

ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK.

XVII.

From THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN, LL. D., *Chancellor of Rutgers College.*

New Brunswick, N. J., September 15th, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER.

Dear Sir:—I duly received your kind note of invitation to the Corner-Stone Celebration of the N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum, on the 24th inst.

I regret that our Fall Session of the College opens next week, and it is very important that I should be here. I must, therefore, decline, while I thank you for the favor.

I rejoice that a systematic effort will now be made by your noble charity, for the recovery and relief of as wretched a class of our fellow-men as ever drew the tears of humanity.

Very respectfully, your obedient serv't,

THEO. FRELINGHUYSEN.

XVIII.

From Hon. GEORGE F. FORT, M. D., *Ex-Governor of New Jersey.*

New Egypt, New Jersey, September 20, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your favor of the 15th inst., inviting me to participate in the ceremonies of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, on the 24th instant, was duly received.

I regret that the state of my health will not admit of my presence on that interesting occasion.

Permit me to congratulate you upon the success which has crowned your efforts for this object. This Institution, and others of a similar character, which will shortly follow it, will supply a desideratum in the moral and philanthropic progress of the age, and will be viewed with much gratification by every well-wisher of his kind. May you live to see many restored to health and

sobriety by the remedial measures of this Asylum, and to witness many domestic circles restored to peace and happiness through its means. I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

GEO. F. FORT.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary, &c.*

XIX.

From Hon. JOHN C. MATHER.

New York, September 21, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary,*
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

Dear Sir:—I find, much to my regret, that indispensable engagements, in another locality, will deprive me of the pleasure of accepting your kind invitation to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, on the 24th instant. I take this occasion, however, to congratulate you upon the success which has thus far attended your protracted and gratuitous labors in this good cause. The aims and objects of your Institution are noble and praiseworthy; and it must, therefore, commend itself to the favor of the wise and the good everywhere.

The site upon which your edifice is to be erected is one of surpassing beauty, and for this magnificent gift, with the hundreds of acres which surround it, you are solely indebted to the liberality of the enterprising *citizens of Binghamton*. The ceremonies of the 24th will be invested with peculiar interest to yourself and others, who have taken so deep an interest in this beneficent enterprise.

May the foundations of this noble institution be laid broad and deep, and its future prosperity be commensurate with its merits. May you receive abundant encouragement in the noble mission you have undertaken, that your Institution may open wide its doors to the unfortunate, whom it is designed to benefit, and thus be enabled to scatter its blessing broadcast throughout the land.

With great respect, yours,

JOHN C. MATHER.

XX.

From Hon. SAMUEL SLOAN.

President's Office, Hudson River Railroad, }
New York, Sept. 18, 1858. }

DEAR SIR:—I regret that pressing engagements will prevent me the pleasure of accepting your invitation for the 24th inst., when the Corner-Stone of the Asylum is to be laid.

You have my warmest congratulations, and best wishes for the success of this truly philanthropic enterprise.

Respectfully yours,

SAMUEL SLOAN.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary, &c.*

XXI.

From CHARLES MORAN, Esq.

Office of the New York and Erie Railroad Company, }
New York, Sept. 16, 1858. }

DEAR SIR:—I duly received your favor of 14th instant. If I can absent myself from the city, I shall, with pleasure, accept your kind invitation to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of your Institution, in the success of which, you are aware, I take great interest.

Believe me, truly yours,

CHAS. MORAN.

To Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER, Binghamton.

XXII.

From Hon. JOSHUA B. SMITH.

Hauppauge, Long Island, September 15th, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER

Dear Sir:—Yours of Sept. 11th, inviting me to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the State Inebriate Asylum, on the 24th instant, has just been received. I should be glad to attend a witness of so important a ceremony, but other engagements about that time, will prevent a compliance with your request. You will, however, permit me to say that I regard the object to be truly a philanthropic one, and you have my best wishes for a prosperous time on the occasion.

Respectfully yours,

JOSHUA B. SMITH.

XXIII.

From Hon. A. C. HAND.

Elizabethtown, New York, Sept. 21, 1858.

GENT.:—I have the honor to acknowledge an invitation on behalf of the Trustees, to be present on the occasion of Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, on the 24th inst.

It would afford me great pleasure to do so, but I am prevented by pre-engagements.

The object of the Institution is worthy of the noblest efforts of every benevolent mind, and I trust it will be completely successful.

Accept my sincere wishes for the success of the enterprise.

Very respectfully,

A. C. HAND.

To Hon. BENJ. F. BUTLER, *President,*

And J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary,*

N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

XXIV.

From Hon. RICHARD KEESE.

Keeseville, September 20th, 1858.

GENTLEMEN:—Your favor of the 9th current, came to hand a few days since, in which you express a hope that I may be present, and co-operate with you in Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

Previous engagements will prevent my being present on that interesting occasion; interesting on many accounts—among which is the fact that it is fondly hoped that many persons will be reclaimed and returned to their families and friends, and others rendered more comfortable than they can otherwise be made.

With much respect, I remain your humble and obedient serv't,

RICHARD KEESE.

To the Officers and Trustees of the

N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum, Binghamton.

XXV.

From D. T. BROWN, M. D.

Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane, }
N. Y. City, Sept. 20, 1858. }

J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum:

Dear Sir:—I have to express my obligations for your invitation to attend the ceremonies incident to the commencement of your Asylum building, and my regret that it will not be in my power to be present.

It is scarcely necessary for me to assure you of my sympathy in a work of benevolence closely allied to the one which engages my own service; nor of my hope, that the philanthropists who

have entered upon this new field may accomplish all the good they propose.

I do not know the provisions of your organic law ; but if you are empowered to interpose the restraint of your Institution in those cases which must otherwise terminate in the destitution of whole families, you will arrest an evil of which few persons have any just conception.

In such a purpose, and in the rescue of the human body and soul from the destruction caused by intemperance, the best minds and noblest hearts of our country might engage with honor.

In my official experience here, I have constant reason to deplore the want of such an institution as yours will probably be—possessing adequate legal authority to accomplish that which we sometimes attempt by sufferance of the patient—a condition which too generally affords little probability of his restoration.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

D. T. BROWN,

Physician of Bloomingdale Asylum.

XXVI.

From THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M. D.

Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, }
Philadelphia, September 23, 1858. }

MY DEAR SIR :—I have received an invitation from the Board of Trustees of the New York Institution for Inebriates, to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of their building, and regret that imperative engagements here will prevent my being with you on so interesting an occasion.

It is now many years since I had occasion, in my Reports, to advocate the establishment of an Institution for the reception and treatment of the class you propose taking under your protection and enlarged experience has only tended to confirm my convictions of its necessity and usefulness. With an enlightened and wise administration of its affairs, and proper laws for the control

of those who may be committed to the care of the Institution, I am quite confident that it will prove worthy of the liberal regards of your Legislature, and of benevolent individuals—a blessing to the people of your State, and an honor to all who, under many discouragements, have been instrumental in securing its foundation. Very respectfully yours,

THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE.

To BENJ. F. BUTLER, *President*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

XXVII.

From JOHN FONERDEN, M. D.

Maryland Hospital for the Insane, }
Baltimore, Sept. 21, 1858. }

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER:

Dear Sir:—It will give me great pleasure to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum; and I beg you to accept my thanks for the invitation.

Very respectfully,

JOHN FONERDEN, *Medical Supt.*

XXVIII.

Baltimore, October 15th, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER:

My Dear Sir:—Accept my thanks for the papers which you have sent, containing Reports of the Proceedings at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

It was a very great pleasure to me to be present on that interesting occasion. I fully accept the opinion which you have so successfully advocated, that there is as much need of asylums for

a certain class of inebriates, as there is for the insane. Many minds throughout the Union will look with deep interest, and with sanguine hope, upon the great work which the State of New York has determined to introduce to the attention of the public. I believe that, when this Asylum is in operation, it will become a medium of blessings to its inmates, and to their kinsfolk, and also of valuable moral instruction to the world, respecting the influence of hereditary laws, of early education in the family, of temperament, example, &c.

With my warmest wishes that complete success in establishing a *model institution* in this new field of labor, will crown the plans and purposes of the Trustees,

I am, your obedient servant,

JOHN FONERDEN.

XXIX.

From W. S. CHIPLEY, M. D.

Eastern Lunatic Asylum,
Lexington, Ky., September 19, 1858. }

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

I regret that more than ordinary official duties intervene to prevent me from being present to witness the interesting ceremonies of such an important occasion.

The proposed Institution has my warmest sympathies, and I most ardently wish it a success fully commensurate with the anticipations of its patrons and friends. I hope that, ere long, every State in the Union will have one or more similar retreats, for those who would, if they could, dash from their lips the poison that is robbing them of their manhood, desolating their homes, and embittering every source of rational pleasure.

The proposed Institution is but another evidence that the predominant feature of the present—the glory of our age—is an expansive benevolence, which is seeking to comfort the wretched,

to elevate the fallen, and to ameliorate the condition of every class of society.

New York deserves the proud appellation of the Empire State not only in virtue of the extent of her territory, the number of her people, the magnitude of her commerce, but still more in virtue of the magnificent provision she has made, and is still making, for the relief of the unfortunate. These enormous demands have not exhausted her resources, nor dried up the fountain of her charity; again she steps forth, the noble Pioneer in a new field of benevolence.

May the New York State Inebriate Asylum flourish until her mission shall have been accomplished, and there shall not remain one of that pitiable class it is intended to shelter.

Yours truly,

W. S. CHIPLEY.

To BENJ. F. BUTLER, *President*,

And J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

XXX.

From W. H. ROCKWELL, M. D., *Superintendent of Insane Asylum at Brattleboro.*

Brattleboro, Vermont, September 20th, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER :

Dear Sir :—Yours of the 10th inst. is received. It would afford me great pleasure to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of your Institution. I highly approve the object and design, and believe it will be the means of dispensing much good to many unfortunate persons.

I exceedingly regret that circumstances beyond my control will prevent my being present on the occasion.

With great respect for yourself, and those associated with you in this benevolent enterprise, I remain,

Truly yours,

W. H. ROCKWELL.

XXXI.

From HENRY M. HARLOW, M. D.

Maine Insane Hospital,
 Augusta, Maine, Sept. 16, 1858. }

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 9th inst., extending to me your polite invitation to be present at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, at Binghamton, Broome County, N. Y., on Friday, the 24th instant.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to accept your kind invitation; but duties at home, and other circumstances, will prevent my doing so.

The object of such an Institution as you propose to erect, is a noble one, and claims the attention of every philanthropist: to raise up the bowed-down—to speak gently to the erring—to administer to the wants of the sick—to reclaim the inebriate—and alleviate the condition of all unfortunates, are Christian, Heavenly duties; and he who does them well, exemplifies the Golden Rule: “As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them.”

Wishing you much success in the great enterprise you have now commenced, and hoping that others may soon be led to follow your example, in providing for the wants of the inebriate,

I remain, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY M. HARLOW.

To BENJ. F. BUTLER, *President*,
 N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

XXXII.

From JOHN M. GALT, M. D.

Eastern Lunatic Asylum, }
 Williamsburg, Virginia, September 17, 1858. }

GENTLEMEN :—I have to acknowledge the reception, last evening, of your polite invitation to be present at Binghamton, on the 24th of September, when the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum will be laid.

It would give me great pleasure to attend the initiation of such a noble undertaking, did not circumstances forbid such action.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass, however, without expressing my best wishes for a prosperous issue to this new and important attempt to alleviate the horrors of one of the sorest evils which afflict the race of man. Who can look upon an effort of this kind without emotion, when he reflects on the innumerable evils arising from intemperance. The tears of the widow, the sad fortune of the desolate orphan, the crime and the bloodshed, the "disease, the waste of talent, and the utter wreck of hope.

When we view only a single aspect of this terrible evil, we must hail with our most ardent wishes the amelioration which the State of New York now proposes to attempt. Her benevolent Institutions for the Insane, for the Blind, for the Deaf Mute, and especially that for the poor Idiot, will well compare with those of any country on the globe. It is suitable, therefore, that she should be the Pioneer of an additional amelioration, and extend the empire of her illustrious benevolence over an additional object of compassion. That this new foundation may be commensurate in the good effected with the other charities which she has already established, is the most earnest hope of,

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN M. GALT, *Medical Sup't.*

To BENJ. F. BUTLER, *President,*

And J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary,*

N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum,

XXXIII.

From EDWARD C. DELAVAN, *Esq*

South Ballston, September 21, 1858.

Dr. J. EDWARD TURNER, *Secretary*,
N. Y. State Inebriate Asylum.

My Dear Friend :—I have your esteemed, kind, and very flattering letter of the 14th instant, also one from the Trustees of the State Inebriate Asylum, both inviting me to attend the Ceremony of Laying the Corner-Stone of that Asylum, at Binghamton, on the 24th instant. Nothing would afford me more pleasure than to be present at the inauguration of this benevolent Institution, which you and your associates have, by the most untiring zeal and perseverance, brought to its present promising position ; but an engagement, which I cannot forego, will prevent me the gratification.

I cannot but look upon this Institution as one of the happy results of the Temperance Reform. When that reform commenced, the drunkard was generally looked upon with contempt—as an outcast—as a degraded being, not worth an effort to save. Now, he is viewed by good men with compassion and love—as a brother to be saved, having a sore disease, requiring the kindest attention, and the best medical skill and advice.

I sincerely hope, my dear sir, that the Asylum now about to be erected may realize all its most sanguine friends have anticipated, and when those you have reclaimed from a vicious appetite and degradation, shall leave the shelter prepared for them, to return and mingle again with the world, may those temptations which would now meet them at almost every step, inviting them back to their old habits, *exist no longer* : for it is an acknowledged fact, that the reformed man must be a total abstainer *for ever*, to be safe.

With sentiments of high regard, I am truly your friend,

EDWARD C. DELAVAN.

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS.

CHARTER

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

An Act to amend an act entitled "An Act to incorporate the United States Inebriate Asylum, for the reformation of the poor and destitute Inebriate, passed April fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and the act amending the same, passed April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and to change the name of this Institution."

PASSED MARCH 27TH, 1857.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. The act entitled "An Act to incorporate the United States Inebriate Asylum, for the reformation of the poor and destitute Inebriate, passed April fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and the act amending the same, passed April twenty-third, eighteen hundred and fifty-five," are hereby amended so as to read as follows :

§ 2. All persons who shall become subscribers pursuant to this act, shall be, and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

§ 3. Any person donating the sum of ten dollars to the Asylum hereby incorporated, shall be deemed a subscriber and stockholder.

§ 4. The object of this Institution shall be for the medical treatment and control of the inebriate, and for that purpose it shall have power, in its corporate name, to take, purchase and hold real estate

in the State of New York, and erect thereon a building or buildings suitable for the purpose of an Asylum, herein before named, and to take, purchase, hold and convey such personal property as may be necessary to carry out the object of said Asylum, and for no other purpose whatever. Said Asylum shall have power to sue and be sued; to make and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure; to take and hold any grant or devise of land, or any donation or bequest of money or other personal property, to be applied to the founding and maintenance of said Asylum.

§ 5. The fund of said Institution shall be fifty thousand dollars, but may be increased to three hundred thousand dollars, at any time the Board of Trustees may think it compatible with the best interests of said Asylum, and shall be deemed personal property.

§ 6. All the affairs and concerns of said Asylum shall be managed by and conducted under the direction of forty Trustees, who shall be subscribers and citizens of the State of New York, and who shall be elected by the subscribers, after the present year, annually, on the first Monday in February of each year, by ballot, by plurality of subscribers present, or represented by proxy, each and every subscription of ten dollars having one vote; if, for any cause, such election shall not be so held, the said Asylum shall not be deemed dissolved, but said election shall be held within twelve months thereafter; notice of the time and place of each election shall be published for two weeks immediately preceding the day appointed therefor, in the State paper. The said Board of Trustees annually, from their own body, and as soon as may be after their election, shall proceed to elect by ballot a President and Treasurer of said Asylum, who, so long as they shall continue Trustees of said Asylum, shall hold their offices respectively during the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, and said Trustees shall have the power to fill vacancies in their own body, caused by the death, resignation, or removal from the State of New York, or otherwise, of any Trustee or Trustees, and to make all by-laws not inconsistent with the laws of this State, as they may deem proper for the management of the affairs of said Asylum, and shall appoint annually by ballot, at least thirty days before such election of Trustees of said Asylum, three fit and disinterested persons Inspectors of the then next election of Trustees, and at any time

before the election, supply any vacancy which may occur in the office of any such Inspector. Five of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All committees, physicians, agents, and officers authorized by this act, or by the by-laws of this Asylum, shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees. Each Senatorial District of this State shall be entitled to one or more of the Trustees of said Institution, who shall reside in said district which he represents in the Board of Trustees.

§ 7. No subscriber of this Asylum shall be liable, in his or her individual capacity, for any contract, debt, or engagement of said Asylum, after the full amount of their subscription is paid in.

§ 8. John W. Francis, Washington Hunt, Benjamin F. Butler, Anson G. Phelps, Edward A. Lambert, William E. Dodge, N. A. Prince, David Hoadley, Jacob S. Miller, Noah Worrall, J. H. Ransom, Franklin Johnson, J. Edward Turner, Thomas W. Olcott, Henry A. Brewster, George W. Tift, C. P. Wood, Hamilton Murray, Henry P. Alexander, Allen Munroe, Charles H. Doolittle, William T. McCoun, Walter L. Sessions, Josiah B. Williams, Charles Cook, John Greig, R. H. Walworth, Charles H. Ruggles, Edward F. Shonard, Ransom Balcom, S. N. Sherman, Lucius S. May, Joseph Mullen, John Conkling, T. C. Brinsmade, John F. Rathbone, Peter S. Danforth, P. Richards, Frederick Juliard and Danforth K. Olney, shall constitute the first Board of Trustees, who shall hold their offices until a new Board of Trustees is elected, and they shall be Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to locate said Asylum, and to receive subscriptions to the funds of said Institution.

§ 9. Said Institution shall have power to receive and retain all inebriates who enter said Asylum, either voluntarily or by the order of the Committee of any habitual drunkard; all poor and destitute inebriates who are received into said Asylum shall be employed in some useful occupation in or about the said Asylum; said inebriates shall have all moneys accruing from their labor, after the expenses of their support in said Asylum shall have been paid, which shall be sent to their families monthly; if said inebriates have no families, it shall be paid to him or her at their discharge from said Institution.

§ 10. The Committee of the person of any habitual drunkard

duly appointed under existing laws may, in his or their discretion, commit such habitual drunkard to the custody of the Trustees, or other proper officers of said Asylum, there to remain until he shall be discharged therefrom by such Committee.

§ 11. The Board of Trustees of said Asylum shall make an annual report on the third Wednesday of January in each year, in detail, of their proceedings, income, expenditures, the number of patients admitted, discharged, and remaining in said Institution, verified by the affidavit of the President and Treasurer, which report shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

§ 12. This act shall continue in force for the period of fifty years, subject, however, to amendments, and repeal by the Legislature; and at the dissolution of said Institution, the Asylum and the grounds attached thereto shall be ceded to the State of New York, to be used by said State for some benevolent institution.

§ 13. This act shall take effect immediately.

State of New York, }
Secretary's Office. }

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city of Albany,
[L. s.] the seventh day of April, in the year one thousand eight
hundred and fifty-seven.

N. P. STANTON,
Deputy Secretary of State.

B Y - L A W S

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

CHAPTER I.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

Time of election of Trustees. ARTICLE 1. The annual election of Trustees of this Institution required by the act of incorporation, to be held on the first Monday in February in each year, shall be held at the Institution; the poll to be opened at 12 o'clock M., and to continue open until 2 o'clock P. M.

The mode of electing Inspectors. 2. Before each election, the Board of Trustees shall appoint (at least thirty days) three fit and disinterested persons, Inspectors of the then next election of Trustees, and at any time before the election supply any vacancy which may occur in the office of any such Inspector.

The duties of Inspectors. 3. The Inspectors of elections, as soon as the poll is closed after any election, shall proceed to canvass the votes, and shall sign a certificate declaring who are the persons elected as Trustees for the ensuing year; and shall deliver the same to the Recording Secretary, to be filed and preserved.

CHAPTER II.

THE MEETING OF THE BOARD.

Time of the meeting of the Board. ARTICLE 1. There shall be a stated annual meeting of the Board of Trustees on the first Monday of February in each year, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the office of the Institution; and regular meetings of the Trustees shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

2. Special meetings may be called by the President at his discretion, and it shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to call such meeting, at the written request of not less than three Trustees; but no special meetings shall be called, without stating in general terms the business to be transacted. All meetings so occurring or called, shall be held at the office of the Institution, and shall be convened at 11 o'clock A. M. They may be adjourned from time to time, and by the consent of two-thirds of those present, to any other place of meeting. The Corresponding Secretary shall give timely notice of such meetings to all the Trustees; which notice shall be made by letter through the Post Office, directed to their respective places of residence.

The power of the President to call extra meetings of the Board.

How adjourned.

CHAPTER III.

ARTICLE 1. In case of the absence of the President, Vice-President, and second Vice-President, the Board shall appoint a President *pro tem*.

Duties of Vice-President and second Vice-President.

2. The order of proceedings shall be as follows: the minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read before the Board proceeds to any other business; and no debate shall be admitted, nor question taken at such reading, except as to errors or inaccuracies.

The manner of opening the meeting of the Board.

3. The President shall determine all questions of order, and his decision shall be final, unless two members require an appeal to the Board. He shall name all Committees, unless herein otherwise provided, or unless the Board shall otherwise determine.

Powers of the President

4. Every member presenting a paper to the Chair shall first state its general purport; and every member who shall make a motion, or offer a resolution, or speak on any subject under discussion, shall rise and address the President.

Manner of making a motion or offering a resolution.

5. No debate shall be entered into on any motion or resolution, until it shall be stated from the Chair; and all motions shall, if requested by the President or by two members, be reduced to writing, and no member shall speak

Privilege of debate.

more than twice on any one question, without permission of the Board.

Manner of
disposing of
a question.

6. While a question is under consideration, no motion shall be made, except to amend, divide, commit, postpone, substitute, or lay upon the table; but it shall be in order at any time, on the call of three members, to take the previous question. Any member may call for the division of a question, or a resolution, where the sense will admit of it. If business of different kinds shall be called for at the same time by different members, the President shall determine the business that shall have the preference. The yeas and nays shall be taken, and shall be recorded on any question, if called for by any member previous to the decision on such question; but no motion for reconsideration shall be permitted, unless made by a member who was in the majority on the original question.

Powers of
the
President.

Appeal.

Adjourn-
ment.

7. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, but shall be decided without debate.

CHAPTER IV.

OFFICERS.—MODE OF APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF OFFICE.

Officers.

ARTICLE 1. The following permanent officers shall be elected: A President, Vice-President, second Vice-President, Treasurer, Register, and Corresponding Secretary. They shall be elected by ballot, and the majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

Time of hold-
ing office and
when the
election of
officers shall
take place.

2. The President, Vice-President, second Vice-President, Treasurer, Register, and Corresponding Secretary, shall hold their offices until the first election of Trustees by the subscribers; thereafter, and after every succeeding election, it shall be the first duty of the Trustees elected to elect these officers: but if they fail to do so under the previous provisions, then a President *pro tem.* and a Secretary *pro tem.* shall be appointed by a majority of the Trustees present; and thereafter a motion to proceed to a choice of these officers shall have the preference over all other business.

3. All officers, except the President, Vice-President, second Vice-President, Treasurer, Register, and Corresponding Secretary, shall hold their appointments during the pleasure of the Board. All vacancies occurring by the death, resignation, or otherwise, of any of the permanent officers, or in the Board of Trustees, shall be filled, for the remainder of the term of the Board, in the same manner as is provided for the appointment of such officers; and all vacancies shall be filled without any unnecessary delay.

The manner of filling offices made vacant by death and otherwise.

CHAPTER V.

ARTICLE 1. There shall be four Standing Committees appointed, viz.:

2. 1. On Finance.
2. " Location.
3. Construction and Repairs.
4. Management and Discipline.

3. Each Committee shall consist of five members. Each Committee shall appoint its own chairman. They shall be appointed by ballot, unless that formality is dispensed with by unanimous consent; and shall be reorganized after every election of Trustees by the subscribers. At the meetings of the Committees three shall be a quorum.

Manner of electing Chairmen of the Committees.

4. The respective duties of these Committees, in addition to those that may from time to time be committed to them, shall be as follows:

The duties of the Committees.

CHAPTER VI.

ON FINANCE.

ARTICLE 1. To devise and report to the Board ways and means to meet the expenses and claims on the Institution, and to raise funds for the same. They shall meet at least once every six months to examine the accounts of the Treasurer, and report them in full to the Board; and shall from time to time report all other necessary particu-

Meeting of the Committee.

The Treasurer shall be a member of the Committee. The Treasurer shall be a member of this Committee, but shall not act in auditing accounts.

COMMITTEE ON LOCATION.

How the Committee shall select a site.

2. The Committee on Location shall select and report to the Board (subject to their approval) a site for the Asylum; and for this purpose may receive all proposals which may be made by any city, town, individual or individuals, for such site, and may visit the same before any report be made to the Board of Trustees.

CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS.

The powers of the Committee.

Reports of the Committee.

3. The Committee of Construction and Repairs shall have the superintendence in constructing, repairing, remodeling or enlarging the edifice or edifices for the Asylum, and all the buildings connected with said Institution. They shall make all necessary reports from time to time to the Board of their business; and shall audit all accounts and demands arising in this department.

MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE.

Appointment of Physicians.

Wants, how supplied. Report to the Board.

4. The Committee on Management and Discipline shall have the supervision of the Asylum. They shall make all appointments of Physicians, and supply all necessary wants of said Asylum. Shall make all rules and regulations for the government thereof; and report to the Board, monthly, a full and minute account of the number of patients received, discharged, and remaining in said Institution, and of all their transactions. Shall audit all accounts and demands arising in this department.

Stated meeting of each Committee.

These several Committees shall establish regular monthly meetings, and appoint the day and hour of convening thereof, and extra meetings may be held at the call of their respective chairmen.

CHAPTER VII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Duties of the President.

ARTICLE 1. The President shall preside at all the meetings of the Board. He shall sign all contracts, agreements,

and other documents affecting the property or the liability of the Institution; unless when the execution of such papers is otherwise provided for by the Board. Shall see that all statements and reports required to be made by the charter are filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

2. The Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall preside over the Board of Trustees, and exercise all powers delegated to the President. The second Vice-President, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, shall preside over the Board of Trustees, and exercise all powers delegated to the President and Vice-President.

3. The Treasurer shall receive all the dues and collections of the Institution. He shall pay all demands and claims against the Institution, and take and file in proper order the vouchers on which the payments are made, and shall take proper receipts and discharges thereof. He shall pay no moneys except under authority emanating from the Board.

Duties of the Treasurer.

Filing of Bills and Receipts. Payment of Money.

He shall keep, or cause to be kept, a regular cash book constantly written up, showing his receipts and payments. He shall also open, or cause to be opened, a regular set of books, and such other books as may be found necessary.

Books opened.

Shall examine and prepare for auditing all accounts against the Institution. He shall balance the books of the Institution on the first day of January and July of each year.

He shall also prepare the annual report to be made to the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation. He shall give bonds to the Institution, with sureties satisfactory to the Board, in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars, for the faithful discharge of the trust committed to him.

Report of the Treasurer to the Secretary of State.

Bonds of the Treasurer.

4. The Register shall keep a journal of all the business transacted before the Board of Trustees and the reports of each Committee, which he shall enter in a book kept for that purpose. At the opening of the meeting of the Board, he shall read the record of the previous meeting,

Duties of the Register.

and if correct, shall certify the same, by placing his signature to the journal. In the absence of the Register, the Board shall appoint a Register *pro tem*.

5. The Corresponding Secretary shall keep a letter book, in which shall be entered a copy of all the letters written in connection with the business of the Institution. He shall file all letters received for said Institution, and answer the same. In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, the Board shall appoint a Corresponding Secretary *pro tem*.

The duties of
the Corresponding
Secretary.

CHAPTER VIII.

CORPORATION SEAL.

ARTICLE 1. The corporate seal of the Institution shall be engraved with an appropriate device, and with the name of the Institution; and shall be in the keeping of the Treasurer, to be used under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

Corporation
Seal.

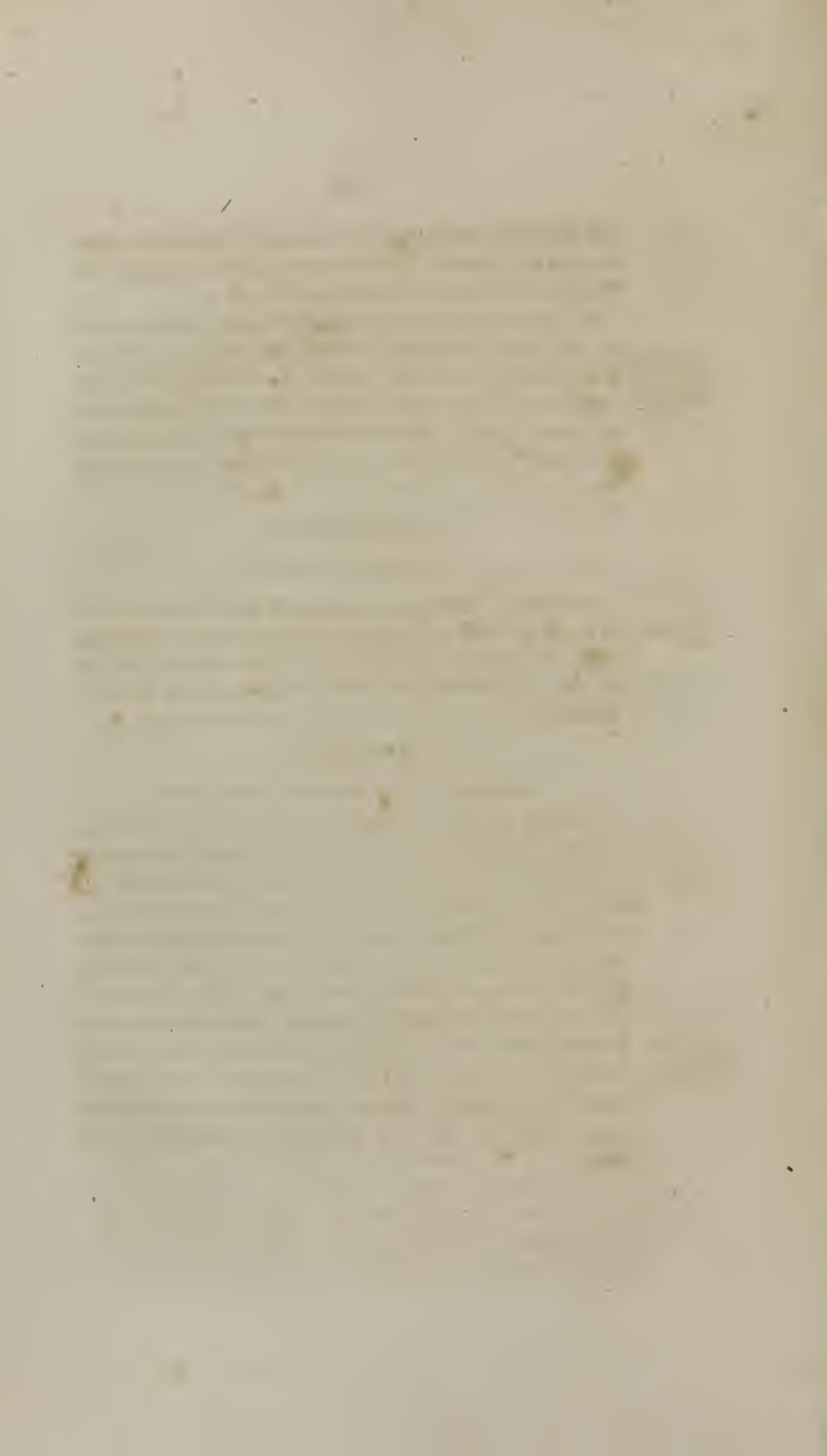
CHAPTER IX.

ALTERATION OR SUSPENSION OF BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE 1. None of the foregoing By-Laws shall be repealed or altered, unless a majority of the Trustees vote for the repeal or alteration; nor unless upon a motion offered for that purpose at a meeting of the Board at least a month previous thereto; and with the like previous notice through the Post Office, to each Trustee of the time and place of the meeting of the Board; and of the general object of the intended motion. But any of the By-Laws may be suspended by the unanimous vote of the Board at any meeting thereof, not less than two-thirds of the whole Board being present; but such suspensions not to continue longer than to the next subsequent meeting of the Board.

The power to
alter the
By-Laws.

Suspension
of the
By-Laws



THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
AND THE APPEAL OF THE SAME TO THE CHURCHES
AND TO THE PUBLIC.

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, held in the City of Albany, on the 8th day of February, 1859, the Hon. WILLIAM T. McCOUN, Vice-President of the Corporation, presided. The afflicting intelligence of the death of the Hon. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUTLER, late President of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, having been communicated to the Board by Dr. TURNER, the following resolutions, prepared by JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D., LL.D., of New York, were offered by the Hon. REUBEN HYDE WALWORTH, seconded by Hon. WASHINGTON HUNT, and unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That, by the demise of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUTLER, the Inebriate Hospital has lost one of its most efficient supporters, and intelligent advocates.

Resolved, That it will ever be a melancholy, but deep satisfaction to the founders of this Institution, to remember, that when the Corner-Stone of the edifice was laid, Mr. BUTLER's eloquent voice was heard (although for the last time) on an occasion of public benevolent enterprise ; and that one of the latest acts of his useful and honored life, before leaving his native land, was to consecrate the great work in which we are engaged, by an earnest appeal to the patriotism and the humanity of his countrymen, in its behalf.

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize with the tributes paid to his character, talents, self-devotion, and religious faith, by the Church, the Bar, and the Press; that we offer our heartfelt condolence to his afflicted family and bereaved friends, and that we recognize in his example of practical benevolence and intelligent zeal, a new motive to carry on our beneficent design, with confidence and faith.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family of the deceased, and that they be published in the daily papers of the City of New York.

In offering these resolutions, Chancellor WALWORTH said, in substance :

MR. PRESIDENT: It is not necessary for any one before this Board, to pronounce an eulogy upon our deceased President and brother, BENJAMIN F. BUTLER—for he was well known to every member of the Board of this Institution, as one whose heart and whose hand was always ready to engage in any benevolent enterprise which had for its object the amelioration of the condition of his fellow-men in this life, or the security of their happiness beyond the grave. I have known him well for nearly forty years, in private, as well as in public life: and though the discharge of his professional and public duties, which he never neglected, occupied a very great portion of his time, he always found sufficient leisure to engage in works of benevolence and charity, as well as in the higher duties of religion. As a lawyer, it may be truly said of him, "*Semper paratus, semper fidelis.*" He was *always ready—always faithful* to the interest of the client whose cause he had espoused; and in the important public offices which he held, he was equally vigilant and careful to discharge their duties promptly

and efficiently : not in reference to his own private interest, or personal advancement, but solely in reference to the interests of the public. In a word, he was a pure patriot, an active and zealous philanthropist, and a devoted and active Christian.

But he has been taken from us, and from the Presidency of this Board, in the midst of his usefulness, to his reward in heaven. We are forcibly reminded, therefore, that what remains for us to do, in the work in which we are engaged as members of this Board, or in any other benevolent enterprises for the benefit of our fellow-men, must be done quickly—for we must soon follow our deceased brother and associate to the grave—and must render an account of our several stewardships, before the throne of the Eternal.

AN APPEAL

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE INEBRIATE ASYLUM, TO THE CHURCHES
OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, IN BEHALF
OF THAT INSTITUTION.

HAVING been disappointed in our most sanguine expectations of receiving from the Legislature of the State of New York an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars, to assist in founding the Inebriate Asylum, we are compelled to appeal to the liberality of the churches of our country, and to the public at large, to co-operate with us in the great medical, moral, and religious work of founding this Institution. We shall extend to all the churches and individuals in our land (who are donors to this Asylum) equal rights and privileges in sending inebriate patients to this Hospital.

When a Government neglects to provide for its great humane and charitable institutions, and the sick and the insane are left to languish in our alms-houses, and perish in our streets, *then* it becomes the duty of every benevolent and patriotic citizen to aid all those great works of philanthropy which the State fails to assist.

What is the duty of society towards its unfortunate children? With regard to the inebriate, it is clear and imperative. It is the duty of every Christian community to provide the best means for the cure of the curable, and to take care of the incurable. This duty

of society, besides being urged by every consideration of humanity, will be seen to be more imperative, when we consider that inebriety is, in many cases, *hereditary*, and the result of the *imperfect* or *vicious social customs* of our ancestors.

So great has been the necessity felt for an Inebriate Asylum, that more than nine hundred leading physicians, *of all schools*; more than four hundred clergymen, *of all denominations*; more than four hundred leading lawyers, *of all parties*, have subscribed to the fund of this Institution.

Of all the maladies which man is heir to, there is none that requires an asylum for its treatment, more than *inebriety*. Yellow fever, cholera, small pox, deafness and blindness—all these, sad as they are, may be successfully treated *at home*; while the inebriate, *without an asylum*, perils his own life by his own hand, jeopardizes the lives of others, and dies, at length, a most painful death. In no physical condition in which man is placed, either in disease or health, can we find him cheerfully surrendering food, raiment, shelter, and friends, to gratify any passion or desire, except in the diseased appetite produced by alcoholic stimulants. Where is the man who has power of mind and determination of purpose to withstand the torments of hunger and thirst, when rich viands and delicious waters are placed before him? Will he not break bars and bolts to satisfy the cravings of his famishing nature? Blame not the inebriate, then, for breaking *his* resolutions, and disregarding *his* vows, when, in view of the wretched results of his excesses, he lifts to his lips the poisonous draught, which, if the

cause of all his woes, is the source of all his consolation—puts to sleep the torments of his stomach, soothes his agitated nerves, and gives a momentary respite to his infernal misery. Can any person who has witnessed the inebriate's sufferings, believe that the hunger and thirst of a famishing man are more terrible than the morbid appetite of the inebriate—an appetite which leads its victim to forego food, raiment, and every physical comfort, to spend his last farthing for alcoholic stimulants, even when his emaciated body is perishing for the want of its natural sustenance?

This Institution (while relying for its success upon the careful classification of its patients, its rigid, but kind, police discipline, its judicious hygienic and medical appliances, its moral and religious influences), will prove the most powerful auxiliary to the Church in rescuing from the thralldom of a diseased appetite a class of our fellow-citizens, whose present *physical and mental condition* excludes them from the pale of religious influences—a condition more deplorable than that of any heathen on the face of the earth.

Who can doubt the vital importance of such an asylum when, even before its first story is completed, more than twenty-eight hundred applications have been made for admittance, many of which are from the patients themselves. Among the applicants are twenty-eight clergymen, thirty-six physicians, forty-two lawyers, three judges, twelve editors, four army and three naval officers, one hundred and seventy-nine merchants, fifty-five farmers, five hundred and fifteen mechanics, and four hundred and ten women,

who are from the high walks of life. Of the vocation of the remaining twelve hundred applicants, we have no knowledge.

If it were in our power, without invading the sanctity of private life, to lay before the public a full account of each case of inebriety that has come under our observation, and unfold the terrible calamities inflicted upon whole families by this disease, we could present a history which would arouse the sympathies of the world, and bring to the aid of this great work every benevolent citizen of our country.

The following cases illustrate the importance of this asylum, and the great desire the inebriate has for an institution in which he can be controlled, medically dealt with, and morally treated: ——— was a gentleman of genius, fine culture and accomplishments, and whose professional reputation was second to none of his age in our country. He had many admirers; and, wherever he preached, multitudes flocked to hear him. He was as attractive in social life as in the pulpit, yet he was afflicted with this painful malady—a diseased appetite, which he had inherited, and which it was impossible for him to control. Although he loved his accomplished wife and dear children as strongly and devotedly as any father could love, yet these sacred ties, that bound him to life, were as ropes of sand for restraint, when this morbid appetite was upon him. Although a devoted Christian and a holy man (with this exception), yet the Church, with all its sacred influences, could not control him. He has now left his church and people; and gone home to die.

The following is the case of a clergyman, which

deeply enlisted the sympathies of the late Hon. Benjamin F. Butler. For several years, this gentleman had been suffering from tænia, which had produced great emaciation. For this malady, his physician recommended alcoholic stimulants, which were taken in large quantities, and for a long period. The result was, that this prescription, instead of benefitting the patient, produced the more fearful disease of inebriety. The patient lost self-control, and became a burden to his friends, who made every effort to restrain him, but in vain. At length, conscious of his inability for self-control, he voluntarily surrendered himself to the custody of the superintendent of the alms-house on Blackwell's Island. He remained there but a short time, as his better nature revolted at the depraved surroundings. Finally, as a last resort, his friends have sent him on a sea-voyage, from which he has not yet returned.

The following is the case of a father who imbrued his hands in the blood of his own child. This gentleman was a clergyman of no common ability, whose reputation as a Christian and a pastor had placed him in a high position in the Church. He became an inebriate, lost self-control, and, in a fit of delirium tremens, murdered his own child, and would have taken the life of his wife, but for the timely interposition of friends. He was tried for murder, and acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Within the past two years, the State of New York has lost by death two of her Supreme Court judges, and one of her County judges, all of whom died by

inebriety, and all of whom were applicants for admission to this asylum.

Among the merchants who have applied for admission, I know of no one more melancholy in character than the following: This gentleman retired from business about seven years since, with a fortune of seven hundred thousand dollars. Having been accustomed to a great amount of mental excitement incident to a large business, he became much depressed in the retirement of a private life, and resorted to alcoholic stimulants to restore the wonted physical and mental condition of his system. Thereby was produced *this disease*, which consigned this once useful man to a premature grave.

Within three years, there have been two applicants for admission to this asylum, who afterwards committed suicide, while laboring under delirium tremens. One of these was an officer in the United States Navy, who distinguished himself in the war with Mexico. After he had returned from a cruise, he began to stimulate to excess, became diseased by alcohol, and lost self-control. He told us, when he applied for admission to the Institution, "that he should soon die, unless controlled and treated in an asylum." On being informed that the edifice was not built, he left in despair, and, three weeks after, while suffering under an attack of delirium tremens, he threw himself from the third-story window of his hotel, killing himself instantly.

The other case of self-destruction was a young man of wealth and position. He was accomplished in mind, polished in manners, benevolent in heart, and a universal favorite with his associates, both young and old. This painful disease in him was hereditary. His

better nature revolted at the idea of *being* an inebriate and *dying* an *inebriate*. When we told him that the asylum was not completed, he turned away in despair, and said, "Then I must die." Six months had scarcely elapsed, when, while in delirium tremens, he took a bottle of laudanum, which closed his unfortunate career.

We think it unnecessary to present more cases of the victims of a diseased appetite, to prove the *necessity* of an *asylum adapted* for their *control, treatment, and cure*. Neither is it necessary to exhibit to the world the murdered family of the inebriate, to show that he is a dangerous man to remain *at large*. These events are daily heralded in every newspaper in our land, and the courts of our country are inundated with this class of insane; yet, with all these facts before us, the inebriate is left either to die by his own hand, or to plunge the dagger to the heart of his once cherished wife, and dash out the brains of his child, ere it had learned to lisp the name of father.

Society must hold a State responsible which fails to provide an asylum for the control of a class of insane who are more dangerous to themselves and to community, than the lunatics in our madhouses would be, were they set at liberty. Statute laws punish crimes committed by this class of insane; but what does the insane man know or care about laws and penalties when his brain is *on fire* by alcoholic poison? At such times, *laws* do not save the *lives* of the *innocent* and the *virtuous*.

"The world requires an Inebriate Asylum," says a distinguished physician, "not only for the control and

medical and moral treatment of the inebriate, but for the purpose of making a scientific investigation of the morbid anatomy and pathology of the disease produced by alcohol." Every school in our land should be possessed of *these facts*, so that the teacher might be able to lay before his class the morbid condition of each organ of the body produced by alcoholic stimulants, and warn the rising generation "that inebriety is a *disease, constitutional and hereditary*, and that it produces *insanity, idiocy, and death*." By this means, thousands of our youth would be *prevented* from *tasting* the *inebriating draught*, who would otherwise fill an inebriate's grave.

More than thirteen hundred leading physicians of our State have declared (in petitions to the Legislature), "that all attempts to treat the inebriate successfully, without an asylum for his control, have proved, and must ever prove, abortive." The feasibility of establishing an asylum for the control, and the medical and moral treatment of the inebriate, is duly appreciated by those who are fully acquainted with the morbid anatomy and pathology of the disease. Such an institution will have more elements for the radical cure of this class of patients, than any insane asylum has for the cure of insanity, from the fact that the moment an inebriate is placed in this asylum, he is *at once* removed from the exciting cause of his disease, and enters at once upon a course of medical treatment; whereas, the placing a lunatic in the insane asylum, does not at once remove the cause of mental derangement. It may require weeks, or even months, before the physician can discover the exciting cause of his

lunacy, and adopt the remedies suited to his case. The great principle of treating the inebriate successfully, has been as firmly established by cases cured in insane asylums (which are not adapted for this class of patients), as the treatment of insanity itself, as the following cases will illustrate.

— was a gentleman who had been disinherited by his father, on account of his inebriety. His wife and children had left him, and gone to reside with relatives in a distant State, while he, the victim of a diseased appetite, was left to perish as a pauper in the streets of a city. Early one morning, as two lawyers were walking together to their office, they beheld a man lying in the street, in an insensible state, and covered with the filth of the gutter. They were attracted by a resemblance the man bore to an old class-mate of theirs at college. On a near approach, they discovered that it was indeed their old friend. They immediately had him removed to comfortable quarters, and placed him under the charge of a physician, until he had sufficiently recovered to recognize them. They learned his past history, and, by his desire, placed him in an insane asylum, for control and treatment. He was kept there for two years, and discharged cured. Two months after he left the asylum, he moved to the City of New York, where his family joined him, and where he resided for twenty years, a useful citizen, a kind husband, a devoted father, and an exemplary Christian. He died three years since, aged sixty-three.

Another case was that of a clergyman, who had become an inebriate, and an opium-eater. His case excited much sympathy, from the fact that he was a

man of ability and accomplishments, and was beloved by all his acquaintances. All means were tried to control him at home, but without avail. Many of his best friends turned from him, discouraged and disheartened. At last, it was concluded to send him to the insane asylum, where he was kept for fourteen months, and discharged, cured. He is now a Professor in one of the most flourishing colleges in our country, a useful man, and a devoted Christian.

The last case I shall mention, is that of a lawyer of distinction, who had become a common street inebriate, and whom friends had done everything (as they thought) to save. At last, it was resolved to place him in an insane asylum, for control and treatment. At the expiration of the second month of treatment, he regained his self-respect, and, in the third month, his taste for reading. At the expiration of the ninth month, the morbid condition of his stomach had been removed, a healthy tone and action of the system restored, so that all cravings for alcoholic stimulants had disappeared. At the close of the twelfth month, he was pronounced perfectly sound, and was discharged. He is now enjoying a fine reputation as a judge, and has been for years an ornament to the Bar.

Were it necessary, we could mention more than one hundred cases of inebriety that have been *radically cured*, in insane asylums, and in our own practice. All of these were regarded by their friends as lost. Yet, by being subjected to a proper restraint, and a thorough medical treatment, they were restored to society, with health re-established, and diseased appetites removed.

There may be some good persons who will endeavor to excuse themselves from co-operating with us in this work, on the ground that, "inebriety is a malady so extensive, that, by a single asylum, we shall not be able to reach one in a hundred of this unfortunate class." But inebriety is far less prevalent than idolatry; and yet, what great personal and pecuniary sacrifices we have made, and are still making, to remove that evil from the world. But few are discouraged, although much is to be done. If there were but seven hundred inebriates in this country, and a moral certainty existed that one-half of this number could be restored to health, respectability, and usefulness, would not the saving of these three hundred and fifty be considered worthy of the united and untiring efforts of the friends of Humanity and Christianity? Are our responsibilities lessened on account of the magnitude of the evil to be encountered, when the plan is before us, by which it has been demonstrated, that *seventy per cent.* of all inebriates can be saved by a special asylum? Who is there that can feel indifferent on this subject? Have we not lost a brother, a father, or a son, by this malady? Are we to suffer the loss of friends again and again, without making a practical effort to save them? Many a father's anxious inquiry is, where shall I place my only son, who is destroying his own life, and bringing disgrace and ruin upon his family? Many a mother sighs in solitude, because her cherished son, the *hoped-for* solace of her declining years, is pursuing the reckless course of the inebriate, and no asylum is afforded to hide him from open disgrace, or to save him from impending death. Shall

inebriety—which has, and will again wring the hearts of many such parents, with anguish unknown and unutterable; which has caused the tears of many a wife to flow, in bitterness of soul; which has strewn the path of many an aspiring family with discouragements and adversity; which has spread desolation over many a household, clothed children in rags, fed them on the bread of wretchedness, lodged them in the leaky hovel, unsheltered from the wintry storm; entailed upon an innocent offspring all the morbid conditions of a *disease which saps the physical power, and destroys the intellectual energy of its victim*, sinking him at last to *imbecility or death*—shall inebriety continue to slaughter its victims, and no effort be put forth for their salvation?

While the hand of Charity and Christian sympathy is extended in the work of founding throughout our land, asylums for the reformation of juvenile offenders; while hospitals are erected for the maniac, the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the idiotic; while the glad tidings of salvation are extended far and wide, to disenfranchise the heathen from the delusions of idolatry, and to open to them a road to happiness through the Prince of Peace—shall the inebriate be the only class of unfortunates in the world, for whose recovery and restoration no practical effort is made? Are we not incurring a fearful responsibility as a Christian people, while we permit the inebriate to perish, body and soul, when it is in our power to rescue him from such a life, and from such a death?

We would earnestly appeal to the Church, and to every benevolent heart in our land, in behalf of more

than twenty-eight hundred of our fellow-citizens, who are anxious to be saved from their impending death, and whose salvation in this life, and in the life to come, depends upon the co-operation which this great medical, moral, and religious work will receive from the hands of the Christian world. When each Church of our land shall have extended to this Institution its contributions, the day will not be far distant when this Asylum will begin its heaven-born mission of restoring to health the diseased, lifting up the fallen and degraded to the high sphere of the virtuous and the good; restoring to the family its lost head, and to the Church of Christ a useful, exemplary, and devoted Christian.

In behalf of the Trustees of the New York }
State Inebriate Asylum,

J. EDWARD TURNER,
Secretary.

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THE Trustees of this Corporation have received, as a site for the Asylum, two hundred and fifty-two acres of land, valued at twenty-five thousand dollars, donated by the liberal Citizens of Binghamton. This site, upon which the edifice is now being erected, is one of the most beautiful and picturesque slopes in America. The Asylum, when completed, will have a capacity for about three hundred and fifty patients.

No compensation has been received, or is expected, by the Trustees, for their services rendered to the Institution. We have no *salaried* officers, or agents of any description, *to divert from the object* any funds donated to this Asylum.

All donations to the New York State Inebriate Asylum can be forwarded to the Treasurer, JONATHAN H. RANSOM, Esq., 32 Cortland Street, New York.

Form of a Bequest to the New York State Inebriate Asylum.

I bequeath to my executors the sum of _____ dollars, in trust, to pay over the same in _____ after my decease, to the person who, when the same shall be payable, shall act as Treasurer of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said Institution, and under its direction.







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